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Letter dated 6 December 2017 from the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to resolution 2339 (2017) addressed to the President of the Security Council

The members of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to resolution 2339 (2017) have the honour to transmit herewith, in accordance with paragraph 28 (c) of resolution 2339 (2017), the final report on their work.

The attached report was provided to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic on 13 November 2017 and was considered by the Committee on 4 December 2017.

The Panel of Experts would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Romain **Esmenjaud**
Coordinator
Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to Security Council resolution 2339 (2017)

(*Signed*) Luis **Benavides**
Expert

(*Signed*) Mélanie **De Groof**
Expert

(*Signed*) Paul-Simon **Handy**
Expert

(*Signed*) Ilyas **Oussedik**
Expert

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Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to Security Council resolution 2339 (2017)

Summary

The deterioration of the security situation described in the midterm report of the Panel of Experts of 2017 (S/2017/639) has continued during the past few months. Self-proclaimed self-defence groups, loosely connected to some members of the anti-balaka movement, have continued to implement their agenda of "liberation" of the south-east of the Central African Republic, specifically targeting Muslims along the way.

The present report identifies some of the individuals directly or indirectly involved in this violent offensive and in particular the attack on Bangassou of 13 May 2017. This includes a wide range of Bangui-based instigators and "warmongers", whose inflammatory discourse directed against Muslims and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) has contributed to the mobilization of the youth and can be considered as incitement to hatred and violence.

Fighting in the south-east of the country has largely contributed to the dramatic deterioration of the humanitarian and human rights situation, with some members of the self-defence groups and their supporters promoting a strategy of ethnic cleansing against the Muslim community. The report documents cases of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including many attacks against peacekeepers and humanitarians, by all parties to the conflict, whether ex-Séléka, self-defence groups or anti-balaka.

The self-defence groups have emerged in a context of sustained control of large parts of the national territory by ex-Séléka factions where they have continued to prey upon the civilian population. Listed individuals Abdoulaye Hissène and Nourredine Adam have failed to reunify the former coalition owing to ongoing tensions between the Rounga and the Goula communities, as well as the conflicting economic agendas of ex-Séléka leaders. The north-west region remains another hot spot, with several armed groups engaged in a violent competition for the control of road axes and revenues associated with transhumance.

Given the regional dynamics at play in the current crisis (trafficking in arms and natural resources, transhumance, etc.), an initiative involving all neighbouring States, such as the African Union road map for peace and reconciliation, may provide an adequate channel to address the causes of the conflict. Lack of preparedness related to this initiative and lack of coordination with the mediation efforts of the Community of Sant'Egidio have so far prevented the start of concrete discussions under the African Union framework and have undermined its capacity to have any impact on the ground.

Limited progress has been registered in the restoration of State authority, not only in areas under control of ex-Séléka factions, which continue to establish illegal parallel administration and taxation structures, but also in the west. With the complicity of some State officials acting outside their official capacity, many anti-balaka elements generate revenues by controlling access to diamond mines and, to a growing extent, gold-mining sites. Although they are also located in the west, areas declared to be compliant under the Kimberley Process from where sourced diamonds can now be exported, appear to be free of the presence of armed groups.

Fighting in the south-east has reinforced the importance of corridors for trafficking in arms and ammunition via the Democratic Republic of the Congo into the Central African Republic for both self-defence and anti-balaka groups, as well as ex-Séléka factions. Several entry points (Bangassou, Béma, Satema) in the area along the border facilitate the movement of military equipment of various origin, including hunting ammunition produced by the Manufacture d'armes et de cartouches du Congo from Pointe-Noire, the Congo.

The arms embargo continues to be the subject of criticism, especially by Bangui-based "warmongers" who portray the embargo as an obstacle to the rearmament of the Forces armées centrafricaines (FACA) and the ensuing "liberation" of the country. Other actors, whether in the Government or among international partners, rather call for the easing of the embargo to enable FACA units that have already been trained to be equipped and deployed, as they could then operate in support of MINUSCA.

Regarding the implementation of targeted sanctions, the authorities of Chad have confirmed and provided information to the Panel on the freezing of assets of Abdoulaye Hissène, including of companies he has worked for (Djiguira and Abi Tchad). Outside this positive development, limited progress has been made. Listed individual François Bozizé has continued to travel in violation of the travel ban, most likely using counterfeit identification documents, while the national authorities of the Central African Republic remain in violation of their international obligations regarding the implementation of the asset freeze.

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* The annexes are being circulated in the language of submission only and without formal editing.

I. Background

1. On 27 January 2017, the Security Council adopted resolution 2339 (2017), by which the Panel of Experts was mandated, inter alia, to provide to the Council, after discussion with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic, a final report no later than 31 December 2017.

2. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2339 (2017), the present report assesses the implementation of sanctions imposed by the Council (embargo, travel ban and asset freeze) and addresses a number of issues with the aim of identifying individuals and entities involved in sanctionable activities, as defined in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the resolution. Sanctions criteria under that resolution pertain, inter alia, to acts undermining peace and stability in the Central African Republic, violations of the arms embargo, support to armed groups through trafficking in natural resources and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including use of child soldiers and sexual and gender-based violence.

Cooperation

3. Since the beginning of its mandate, the Panel has maintained an almost permanent presence in the Central African Republic and has travelled to 13 of the 16 prefectures (see map in annex 1.1). Prefectures visited by the Panel include those where fighting has been most intense (Haute-Kotto, Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou) and where the security situation has often made movement on roads outside cities impossible for the Panel.

4. In addition to missions undertaken within the Central African Republic, the Panel conducted official visits to Belgium, Cameroon, Chad, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America. The Panel's request through its letter of 13 September 2017 to visit Kenya could not be accommodated by the Government of Kenya because of the ongoing presidential election process.

5. Since the beginning of its mandate, the Panel has addressed 74 official communications to Member States, international organizations and private entities, and has received various levels of response to its requests (annex 1.2).

6. The Panel notes with appreciation the support and collaboration of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

7. Pursuant to paragraph 30 of Security Council resolution 2339 (2017), the Panel has continued to exchange information with the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, the Panel of Experts on South Sudan and the Panel of Experts on the Sudan.

Methodology

8. The Panel endeavours to ensure compliance with the standards recommended by the Informal Working Group of the Security Council on General Issues of Sanctions in its report of 22 December 2006 (S/2006/997, annex). While it intends to be as transparent as possible, in situations where identifying sources would expose members of the Panel or others to unacceptable safety risks, the Panel withholds identifying information.

9. The Panel is equally committed to the highest degree of fairness and will endeavour to make available to parties, where appropriate and possible, any

information in the report for which those parties may be cited, for their review, comment and response, within a specified deadline.

10. The Panel safeguards the independence of its work against any effort to undermine its impartiality or create a perception of bias. The Panel approved the text, conclusions and recommendations in the present report on the basis of consensus prior to its transmission by the Panel's Coordinator to the President of the Security Council.

II. Sanctions implementation: arms embargo, asset freeze and travel ban

11. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2339 (2017), the Panel has been mandated to collect, examine and analyse information on the implementation of sanctions measures (arms embargo, asset freeze and travel ban).

12. The sanctions list of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic, which includes individuals and entities subject to the travel ban and the asset freeze, is available on the website of the Committee.[1] To date, it features 11 individuals and two entities, with Abdoulaye Hissène being the most recent individual to be added to the list (on 17 May 2017).

A. Arms embargo and national security and defence forces

13. Numerous cases of violations of the arms embargo by armed groups are addressed in paragraphs 105–108, 170–180 and 247–255. The present section describes developments related to the implementation of the arms embargo by the national authorities and their international partners, as well as related developments concerning security sector reform.

National security and defence forces: facts and figures

Police and gendarmerie

14. On 31 August 2017, the Minister of Defence and the Minister of the Interior signed a decree on the recruitment of 250 police and 250 gendarmerie officers, currently being trained by MINUSCA. Except for the Haute-Kotto and Mbomou Prefectures, where the security situation prevented the recruitment of candidates, all other regions are represented.[2] However, local authorities in the Bamingui-Bangoran and Vakaga Prefectures expressed their dissatisfaction with the selection of the small number of candidates from their respective prefectures, regretting a geographical imbalance in the final selection (annex 2.1).[3]

15. In Bangui, national authorities continue to organize training sessions for police and gendarmerie officers with the support of MINUSCA and the United Nations Development Programme.[4] Officers are gradually being redeployed to several prefectures, including in Bambari where an "armed group free zone" was created in February 2017 (S/2017/639, para. 53); 32 gendarmes have been deployed with the support of MINUSCA since then. In mid-October, nine gendarmes and seven police

[1] https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/2127/sanctions-list-materials.

[2] List of 500 candidates, received by the Panel on 16 October 2017.

[3] Meeting with local authorities, Ndélé, 17 October 2017.

[4] Meeting with MINUSCA official, Bangui, 11 October 2017.

officers were also deployed to Bocaranga (Ouham-Pendé Prefecture) in support of operation "Damakongo" by MINUSCA (see para. 211).[5]

16. The deployment of national security and defence forces is essential for the stabilization and restoration of State authority. However, the deployed officers continue to face logistical challenges. Cases of misconduct have also been reported, including the creation of checkpoints to collect so-called taxes in Sangha-Mbaéré and Nana Bakasa Prefectures in January and August 2017 respectively[6] and the physical assault of a MINUSCA national staff member in Bambari in May 2017.[7] Prior to their deployment, national security and defence forces should also, following the relevant exemptions request, be adequately equipped and armed, which the Panel observed is often not the case, for instance in Obo, Bambari and Boali.[8]

Forces armées Centrafricaines

17. The European Union Training Mission in the Central African Republic completed the training of the first FACA battalion in May 2017. The training of the second and third battalions will be completed in December 2017 and August 2018 respectively.

18. As part of the pilot project for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation (S/2017/639, para. 26), and with the support of the European Union Training Mission, FACA officers will start training the "mixed" disarmament, demobilization and reintegration company composed of both current FACA and a total of 280 combatants from armed groups. The training of the first batch of ex-combatants was planned to start in early October, but was postponed for both administrative and political reasons, as the integration of ex-Séléka fighters in the national army remains contested by some high-ranking FACA officers.[9]

19. On 11 September 2017, the President of the Central African Republic, Faustin-Archange Touadéra, signed the National Defence Plan, which outlines the structure of a future national army. The army will be garrison-based and organized in four military zones according to a sectorial plan yet to be developed.[10] The creation of a garrison-based army, which contrasts with the concept of a centralized army structure (*armée de projection*) that has prevailed in the Central African Republic since 1960, is considered to be a condition sine qua non for re-establishing State authority throughout the country.[11] A guidance document for the deployment of FACA, especially the battalions trained by the European Union Training Mission, was signed by the Minister of Defence on 30 October 2017. In the meantime, FACA elements are being deployed for specific missions (annex 2.2), such as the one in Bouar and surroundings, where a platoon size force was supposed to counter the activities of armed groups (see para. 206).[12]

20. International and national authorities have on many occasions stressed that several conditions should be fulfilled for FACA elements to be deployed: (a) availability of weapons; (b) sustained salary payments; and (c) sustained logistical

[5] Confidential report, 9 October 2017.
[6] Confidential report, 7 August 2017.
[7] Confidential report, 23 May 2017.
[8] Panel's missions to Boali, 14 October 2017, to Bambari, 19 September 2017, and to Obo, 11–14 September 2017.
[9] Meeting with high-ranking military officer, Bangui, 18 October 2017. Phone conversation with confidential source, 4 November 2017.
[10] Document obtained by the Panel on 20 September 2017.
[11] "*Plan national de défense*", 11 September 2017, pp. 1 and 2.
[12] Confidential report, 16 October 2017.

support. Those conditions are not yet fulfilled (S/2016/1032, para. 178).[13] Moreover, FACA continues to suffer from a weak chain of command and poor logistics (S/2016/694, para. 76).

21. Several FACA members deployed in Obo moved down to Zémio and Mboki on their own initiative. At least three FACA members were killed in Mboki on 25 June 2017.[14] In addition, FACA elements in Zémio are accused of misconduct and ill-treatment of the local population.[15] Similar accusations were made towards FACA members deployed in Obo and Berberati.[16] An irregular Muslim FACA unit, outside the central command and control of the army and reporting to FACA officer Mahmout Abakar, also continues to operate in the 3rd district in Bangui (annex 2.3; see also S/2016/1032, para. 98).[17]

22. Furthermore, several FACA elements are involved in trafficking activities. Besides their involvement in the import of hunting ammunition from the company Manufacture d'armes et de cartouches du Congo (MACC) (see para. 249), two unrelated sources informed the Panel that FACA members in Bangui offered to sell them an AK-type assault rifle and caliber 9x19 mm pistols of Turkish manufacture.[18]

Acquisition of weapons and growing number of exemption requests

23. Government officials have on many occasions complained about the complex and time-consuming procedures relating to exemptions to the arms embargo that, in their view, are an impediment to the restoration of State authority. Therefore, several, albeit only a few, Government officials and high-ranking military officers[19] have at times expressed their frustration by threatening to import military equipment bypassing the applicable procedure.[20] Yet, the Panel obtained no evidence that lethal equipment has been illegally brought into the national territory by the Government. Moreover, the recent creation of the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee for the coordination of matters pertaining to the arms embargo[21] shows that national authorities, with the support of international partners, are committed to complying with relevant rules and procedures and to better coordinating the acquisition of equipment.

24. In the light of the legitimate need to equip FACA elements trained by the European Union Training Mission, several States and companies have expressed interest in selling or donating weapons and ammunition to the Central African Republic. During the period under consideration, a growing number of exemption requests and notifications have been submitted to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) for its consideration. While a large majority of requests was approved by the Committee, several requests for the transfer of weapons and ammunition were put on hold either because essential data, as requested under the guidelines of the Committee, were missing (such as exact type and end-user of the equipment),[22] or because of ongoing discussions at the Committee

[13] Ibid. Also, confidential report, 8 June 2017, and S/2017/865, para. 45.
[14] Meeting with a high-ranking military officer, Bangui, 18 October 2017.
[15] Confidential source, Bangui 16 October 2017.
[16] Confidential reports, 4, 5 and 8 May and 3 October 2017.
[17] Meeting with the Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Defence, Bangui, 12 October 2017. Meeting with Muslim FACA officer, Bangui, 18 October 2017.
[18] Meeting with confidential sources, Bangui, 16 September and 16 October 2017.
[19] United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research conference, Bangui, 26 September 2017.
[20] Meeting with Government sources, Bangui, 17 October 2017.
[21] Meeting for the establishment of the "*Comité technique de coordination*", Bangui, 28 August 2017.
[22] https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/2127/committee-guidelines.

level to determine whether or not equipment seized from armed groups could be reinserted into circulation.[23]

25. Annex 2.4 provides an update on the return from Cameroon of military equipment belonging to the Central African Republic.

Calls to ease the arms embargo and equip and deploy the Forces armées centrafricaines: opportunities and risks

26. The Panel notes that calls from national actors to lift the arms embargo have decreased in favour of calls for making the sanctions regime more flexible to allow a consistent flow of military equipment to FACA and its timely deployment and support.[24] The latter calls have increased within the context of the growing number of FACA members who have been trained by the European Union Training Mission.

27. Whereas these calls generally originated from national actors and some regional organizations in the past, the Panel notes that a growing number of international actors share the view that an increased involvement of national defence and security forces, with the support of MINUSCA, could help both MINUSCA and national forces better fulfil their respective missions. Several international partners also voiced concerns that trained soldiers could eventually join the ranks of armed groups if unemployed.[25]

28. The Panel shares the view that trained FACA members could contribute to the stabilization of the country with the support of MINUSCA. At the same time, the above-mentioned weaknesses regarding logistics and the lack of an integrated chain of command are testament to the importance of closely monitoring FACA rearmament and deployment.

Arms embargo working group

29. Following the Panel's recommendation in its 2016 final report (S/2016/1032, para. 239) and the letter of the Secretary-General of 10 July 2017 to the President of the Council (S/2017/597),[26] MINUSCA established an arms embargo working group which meets once a month. While this is a first positive step in coordinating the efforts of MINUSCA on the implementation of the arms embargo, the meetings held to date have focused mainly on assisting the Government of the Central African Republic in the preparation of arms embargo exemption requests.

30. The Panel encourages the working group to also serve as a channel for information-sharing on arms trafficking to facilitate actions by MINUSCA and, when appropriate, seizure of arms, in pursuance of the mandate of MINUSCA as defined in paragraph 34 of Security Council resolution 2301 (2016). In this connection, the Panel echoes the Secretary-General's view that there is a clear correlation between the Mission's efforts to enforce the arms embargo and its strategic objective to support the creation of conditions conducive to the sustainable reduction of the presence of, and threat posed by, armed groups (S/2017/597, p. 5).

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[23] Committee documents, 25 and 30 August and 29 September 2017.

[24] Statement of President Faustin-Archange Touadéra at the General Assembly, 22 September 2017 (annex 2.5).

[25] Meeting with leadership of the European Union Training Mission, Bangui, 11 October 2017.

[26] By paragraph 29 of resolution 2339 (2017), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to provide options for the elaboration of benchmarks to assess the measures of the arms embargo according to progress made in security sector reform, including with respect to the national defence and security forces of the Central African Republic, as well as additional information on the recommendation by the Panel of Experts to establish an arms embargo working group, potentially within MINUSCA.

National Commission to Combat the Proliferation and Illegal Movement of Small Arms and Light Weapons

31. The mission, functions and organization of the National Commission to Combat the Proliferation and Illegal Movement of Small Arms and Light Weapons were outlined in two presidential decrees of 14 February 2017. In spite of the adoption of a road map by the Parliament on 11 September 2017, the Commission has yet to be operationalized, as the President and the Executive Secretary of the Commission have yet to be nominated by the President.[27]

B. Violations of the travel ban by François Bozizé

32. In its midterm report (S/2017/639, para. 35), and on the basis of first-hand testimony, the Panel reported that on 10 May 2017 listed individual François Bozizé was aboard Ethiopian Airlines flight ET336 from Addis Ababa to Entebbe. On 10 August 2017, Ethiopian Airlines informed the Panel that there was no passenger with identification documents under the name of François Bozizé aboard the above-mentioned flight. The Panel concludes that the former President was most likely traveling with counterfeit travel documents featuring another name.

33. The Panel notes that François Bozizé has continued travelling to countries in the region. He reportedly went to South Sudan in September and Benin in October 2017.[28]

34. The Panel regrets that Kenya has not responded to several requests for information regarding François Bozizé's reported travel through Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on 18 November 2016 (S/2017/639, para. 34).

C. Lack of implementation of the asset freeze by national authorities

35. On 14 August 2017, the Chair of the Committee sent an additional letter to the authorities of the Central African Republic recalling their obligations to freeze the assets of listed individuals and entities. Two additional letters, dated 29 August and 17 October 2017, were also sent to the authorities of the Central African Republic by the Panel on the same issue. In spite of this, the Government has yet to take action in this regard and remains in violation of its international obligations under Security Council resolutions.

Private security company controlled by listed individual Alfred Yékatom

36. As indicated in the Panel's 2017 midterm report (S/2017/639, paras. 36–41), several listed individuals continue to receive their salaries, including from national authorities, and one, Alfred Yékatom, has created a private security company named Koya. Despite the commitments made by the then Minister of the Interior, Jean-Serge Bokassa, to take appropriate action (S/2017/639, para. 37), the company has continued its activities. As witnessed by the Panel, Koya operates offices in Bimbo (Ombella-MPoko Prefecture, 15 km from Bangui) and Pissa (Lobaye Prefecture). It is providing security to palm oil production sites of the companies Palmex and Palme d'Or located in the Lobaye Prefecture (annex 2.6). Yékatom confirmed this information to the Panel and said that he had been in touch with other companies to

[27] Meeting with Mine Action Service, MINUSCA, Bangui, 20 October 2017.

[28] Meetings with confidential and diplomatic sources, Bangui, 1 and 2 October 2017. Phone conversation with a confidential source, 18 October 2017.

further develop Koya's activities.[29] Yékatom also referred to the fact that Koya was creating job opportunities in a region with a high level of unemployment.

37. Representatives of Palmex and Palme d'Or told the Panel that Koya possessed all the legal documentation and authorizations to work as a private security company.[30] They indicated that the responsibility of implementing the United Nations sanctions rested on the Government rather than on companies.

38. Alfred Yékatom conveyed to the Panel that his wife was the head of Koya, but several sources, including employees of Koya, recognized Yékatom himself as the actual chief.[31] Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2339 (2017), the asset freeze covers all assets which are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the individuals or entities designated by the Committee, or by individuals or entities acting on their behalf or at their direction. The Panel therefore considers that the lack of freezing of Koya's assets constitutes an asset freeze violation by the national authorities and lack of implementation of its international obligations.

D. Abdoulaye Hissène's assets in Chad and beyond

Abdoulaye Hissène's assets in Chad

39. In its midterm report, the Panel cited the connections of listed individual Abdoulaye Hissène with two companies based in N'Djamena: Djiguira and Abi Tchad (S/2017/639, paras. 43-45). The Chadian authorities confirmed that Hissène was involved in the management of both companies and had access to or exercised authority over their bank accounts.[32]

40. In partnership with a Chadian national, Abdoulaye Hissène created Djiguira in 2009. Using counterfeit Chadian identification documents, he opened two bank accounts alleging that Djiguira's main field of activity was trade. Statements of Djiguira's accounts opened at United Bank for Africa and Société Générale Tchad featured up to 46 million CFA francs (CFAF) ($81,750) and CFAF 14 million ($24,900) respectively.[33] Both accounts were used by Hissène in 2009 and 2010 at a time when he was the main leader of the armed group Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix founded in 2008.

41. The authorities of Chad also confirmed that Hissène was officially the financial adviser of Abi Tchad and one of its managers. Abi Tchad was officially registered on 11 December 2014 and opened an account at Société Générale Tchad in January 2015 with an initial deposit of CFAF 112 million ($198,000). At the time, Hissène had left his position in the Transitional Government of the Central African Republic only four months previously. This account remained active until March 2016, when Hissène had established himself as the leader of armed militias in the 3rd district of Bangui (the PK5 neighbourhood) (S/2016/694, para. 8). The account was no longer in use when it was frozen in June 2017 (see para. 44).

[29] Meeting with Alfred Yékatom, Bangui, 7 September 2017.

[30] Meetings with representatives of Palmex and Palme d'Or, Bangui, 3 and 4 September 2017. On 30 August 2017, the Panel sent a letter to the Minister of the Interior requesting information on private security companies having received authorizations to operate as private security companies. The Panel has yet to receive a response.

[31] Meeting with Koya employees, 8 August 2017.

[32] Meeting with Chadian authorities, N'Djamena, 14 September 2017.

[33] Documents are archived at the United Nations.

Abdoulaye Hissène's activities in the trade of crude oil

42. In its midterm report, the Panel cited an attempt to trade Chadian crude oil between Abi Tchad and a European company called Mezcor (S/2017/639, para. 44). This is the only activity of Abi Tchad known to the Panel.

43. Mezcor confirmed to the Panel that it had entered into discussions with Abi Tchad in late 2014 through Abdoulaye Hissène.[34] The company representatives indicated to the Panel that Hissène never revealed his role as a manager of Abi Tchad but rather introduced himself as a government official from Chad. Mezcor representatives also told the Panel that the deal eventually did not take place and that the amount of €14,385 was transferred to the account of an individual named Soumaine Kotiga Assileck to cover the travel expenses of Hissène related to the meetings between Mezcor and Abi Tchad.

Freezing of Abdoulaye Hissène's assets

44. Pursuant to resolution 2339 (2017), all assets belonging to companies under the control of Abdoulaye Hissène must be frozen. The Chadian authorities confirmed to the Panel and provided evidence of the freezing of the above-mentioned assets in June 2017. The Panel welcomes this initiative and thanks the Chadian authorities for their extensive cooperation on this issue.

45. The Panel was informed that Abi Tchad has an account with Citibank North America[34] and wrote to Citibank on 27 June and 26 October 2017. In response, the bank indicated that it was not in a position to share any information due to "a range of legal and other constraints".[35] The lack of a response by Citibank, unfortunately, prevents the Panel from being able to implement its mandate, which, pursuant to resolution 2339 (2017), includes the monitoring of the implementation of the asset freeze.

III. Political process and regional involvement

A. Competing mediation initiatives

46. In its 2017 midterm report (S/2017/639, paras. 13–20), the Panel noted that international mediation efforts relating to the crisis in Central Africa have so far been characterized by competition. The meeting of mediators held in Brussels on 21 June 2017, at the initiative of the Government of the Central African Republic and the European Union, sought to enhance coordination among the two main mediations, namely, those undertaken by the African Union and those by the Community of Sant'Egidio. The meeting however failed to achieve that objective.

47. The African Union road map for peace and reconciliation in the Central African Republic was adopted at a ministerial meeting held in Libreville on 17 July 2017. The document presents the road map as the only reference for the peace process in the country.[36] Earlier, the African Union Heads of State and Government had reaffirmed their support to the African Union Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic at their July Summit in Addis Ababa.[37]

[34] Letter to the Panel from a confidential source, 12 May 2017.

[35] Email correspondence of 17 October 2017.

[36] "*Communiqué final de la reunion ministerielle de l'Initiative Africaine pour la paix et la reconciliation en RCA*", Libreville, 17 juillet 2017 (annex 3.1).

[37] See African Union, Assembly of the Union, 29th Ordinary Session, Decisions, Declarations and Resolution, Assembly/AU/Dec. 644 (XXIX), 3–4 July 2017.

48. In spite of this, on 31 July 2017 President Touadéra issued a decree (annex 3.2) creating a follow-up committee for the Rome Agreement of 19 June 2017 adopted under the aegis of the Community of Sant'Egidio (S/2017/639, paras. 17 and 18). The document did not explicitly feature the African Union among the participants in the follow-up committee. By issuing this decree after having endorsed the African Union road map, the national authorities have contributed to the confusion between the two mediation processes.[38] The Panel notes that this lack of coordination has contributed to the slowdown of the start of substantive discussions.

49. The most important push to establish a single mediation channel came from the ministerial meeting co-presided over by President Touadéra and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, held in New York on 19 September 2017 on the margins of the General Assembly. Participants reiterated their support for the leadership of the African Union road map and the need to start to implement it as soon as possible. A week earlier, on 11 and 12 September 2017, the inaugural meeting of the African Union's panel of facilitators was held in Bangui (annex 3.3).

Justice and reconciliation: the bone of contention

50. The Panel notes that rivalries between the African Union and the Community of Sant'Egidio do not revolve around major substantive differences but rather around the question of the political leadership of the mediation. A major source of disagreement, however, remains among international actors regarding the issue of justice and reconciliation, particularly their respective timing in the peace process.

51. In this connection, actors involved in different mediations can be divided into three main groups. The first group supports the conclusions of the Bangui Forum on National Reconciliation of May 2015 (see S/2015/344) and considers that justice is a central element in solving the crisis; MINUSCA and the national Government are the most prominent representatives of this group, albeit for different reasons. Some Government members most probably promote justice to neutralize their political and military opponents.[39] The need for justice is also part of the rhetoric used by a group of actors portrayed in this report as "warmongers" (see para. 65), who see ex-Séléka members as the sole culprits, while considering anti-balaka as patriots.

52. The second group of actors, which includes some countries of the subregion, underlines that amnesty for armed groups is the price to pay for reconciliation and that justice would only jeopardize the chances of a genuine disarmament process. Several proponents of this view mostly refer to conflict resolution experiences in their own country, where former rebels were successfully integrated within the Government and security and defence forces.[40]

53. The third group of actors holds a position that reconciles both of the other views. They consider that justice is an important aspect of conflict resolution but that the timing of its roll-out should not jeopardize reconciliation efforts. In their view, reconciliation is an urgent matter that should precede justice.[41] The authorities of Chad expressed such a position in a meeting with the Panel.[42]

54. It is the Panel's view that suspicion about perceived hidden interests and agendas have so far prevented genuine discussion from taking place among adherents

[38] Meetings with diplomatic sources in Bangui in June, July and August 2017.

[39] Meetings with government members and representatives of armed groups, Bangui, 10–12 August and 6 and 7 September 2017.

[40] Meetings with government representatives of countries in the Central African region, Bangui, 24 May and 15 September 2017.

[41] Meetings with African and non-African government members and representatives of regional organizations, Bangui, 14 and 15 September and 26 October 2017.

[42] Meeting with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chad, N'Djamena, 14 September 2017.

and proponents to these three positions, thereby delaying the start of an inclusive mediation process.

B. African Union initiative and involvement of the region

55. In spite of its endorsement as the only mediation channel for peace negotiations in the Central African Republic, the African Union initiative has not yet achieved the traction expected by national and international actors. Successive delays in the start of mediation efforts have revealed a lack of preparedness and of a clearly articulated strategy.[43] This has created concerns among Government members and international partners, who had expected the African Union to seize the opportunity of the Secretary-General's visit to Bangui to launch the first round of discussions.[44]

56. Various diplomatic sources told the Panel that the African Union's comparative advantage in leading the mediation process consisted in its capacity to involve countries of the region.[45] In its successive reports, the Panel had pointed out how regional dynamics have in many ways had an impact on the crisis in the Central African Republic, for instance through trafficking in arms, ammunition and natural resources or movements of foreign combatants (S/2016/1032, paras. 143–152 and S/2017/639, paras. 99–104). Cattle migration between Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic has become a cause of violent clashes and constitutes an additional matter with a regional character (see paras. 190–210).

57. The Panel notes an inconsistency between these regional dynamics and the rather timid involvement of regional actors in some of the past mediation efforts. Whereas subregional mediations have generally been led by neighbouring regional actors, they have not always involved all relevant stakeholders, neither the countries from the broader region nor the African Union.[46] An example of such regional mediation was the Nairobi process, whose non-inclusive character sowed divisions among main stakeholders and regional actors (S/2015/936, paras. 24–26).

58. The African Union initiative, which involves all relevant actors on the continent, may provide an opportunity to overcome such challenges. At the same time, the African Union still has to produce a strategy that clearly articulates how the restoration of stability in the Central African Republic can be reconciled with the legitimate security and economic interests of countries in the region.

C. Advisory and Monitoring Committee for National Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation

59. During the period under review, the Advisory and Monitoring Committee for National Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation increased the frequency of its meetings. This is partly the result of developments pertaining to the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation pilot project (see para. 18), which has created a new dynamic within the Committee and contributed to a better understanding of the structure of participating armed groups and military equipment in their possession.[47]

[43] By the time of writing the present report, the African Union panel of facilitators was not yet formally constituted and negotiations had not yet started.

[44] Meetings with government and diplomatic sources, Bangui, 13 and 17 October 2017.

[45] Meetings with diplomatic sources, Bangui, 14 September and 15 October 2017.

[46] Meetings with mediation actors, Bangui, 10 August and 6 September 2017.

[47] A senior member of the Advisory and Monitoring Committee indicated that launching the pilot project was critical to prepare the start of the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation project. Meeting with a confidential source, Bangui, 16 October 2017.

60. By the time of writing the present report, the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC) remained the only armed group that had not joined the pilot project for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation (see paras. 143 and 144). The FPRC leadership continues to link any disarmament commitment to the signing of a global political agreement (S/2017/639, para. 20). Government sources consider such requests illegitimate, since President Touadéra has recently addressed some of the FPRC claims by appointing two of the group's senior political leaders to Government positions.[48]

IV. Violence in the south-east of the Central African Republic: "warmongers" and self-defence groups

61. In its 2017 midterm report (S/2017/639), the Panel described a serious deterioration of the security situation in the country which had reversed the gains made since the presidential and legislative elections of March 2016. Whereas ex-Séléka factions have gradually reduced the intensity of their infighting, so-called self-defence groups have intensified their offensives in the south-east and their attacks and trafficking activities now represent one of the main sources of instability in the country.

A. Political context behind the current violence

Rise of an inflammatory, discriminatory discourse

62. Recent fighting involving self-defence groups specifically targeting Muslim communities in the south-east has been enabled, among other factors, by the emergence of a violent and discriminatory discourse that tends to portray Muslims as foreigners and supporters of ex-Séléka groups. Fulanis, generally associated with the armed groups Union pour la paix en Centrafrique (UPC) and Retour, réclamation et réhabilitation (3R), are particularly targeted.

63. Although this narrative is not new in the country, the Panel notes the growing prevalence of such rhetoric in the discourse of Bangui-based politicians, government actors, representatives of the State (mayors, sub-prefects, members of Parliament), army officers and traditional and religious authorities. Aired through local and national radio stations,[49] print media and the Internet, this discourse serves as a mobilizer for anti-balaka, self-defence groups and, at times, civil society organizations.[50]

64. Such rhetoric originates, inter alia, from a deep-seated bitterness with the 2013 Séléka military operations and the ensuing exactions targeting mainly the non-Muslim population (S/2014/452, paras. 24–29). The military defeat of FACA is still considered by some high-ranking officers and senior politicians, in particular those who were members of the administration of President François Bozizé, as a humiliation, which they would like to reverse through a "revenge campaign".[51]

[48] On 12 September 2017, Lambert Lissane Moukové and Ahmed Senoussi were appointed Minister of Water, Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries, and Minister of Public Works and Road Maintenance, respectively.

[49] At the national level, Radio Ndéké Luka has aired various messages from representatives of local authorities and Members of Parliament voicing anti-Muslim and anti-MINUSCA discourses (see para. 72).

[50] The group of civil society organizations that organized the 24 October 2016 demonstrations which paralysed Bangui for days was already fuelling anti-MINUSCA sentiments (S/2016/1032, paras. 103–105).

[51] Meetings with military officers and politicians, Bangui, 11 May, 10 June and 22 September 2017.

Rejecting the neutral posture of MINUSCA, they consider that only a military operation could come to terms with armed groups and ultimately restore State authority.

65. For the purposes of the present report, the Panel refers to the group of individuals and entities expressing such views as the "warmongers". The violent and discriminatory discourse expressed by members of this group has two main targets: Muslims and the United Nations.

Muslims portrayed as "invaders and perpetrators"

66. In this discourse, Muslims tend to be portrayed as the main perpetrators of violence in the country and they are often denied the status of victims, as demonstrated by the lack of reaction from the Government to some of the killings of Muslims in the south-east. In this context, any attempt by MINUSCA or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) aimed at protecting members of the Muslim community tend to be considered by anti-balaka or self-defence groups as an active support to ex-Séléka factions.[52] Likewise, political grievances of Muslims are usually portrayed as illegitimate.

67. The Panel considers that the use of the terminology "self-defence groups" (instead of anti-balaka) precisely aims at casting Muslims as those responsible for the instability in the south-east and from whom the rest of the population would have to defend itself. The insistence of the so-called "warmongers" on portraying Muslims as foreigners also aims at externalizing responsibilities for the crisis and at the same time promoting a climate of victimization that would legitimize impunity for the crimes committed by anti-balaka and self-defence groups.

Sentiments against the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and calls for redeploying the Forces armées Centrafricaines

68. The Panel has in several reports pointed out the mainstreaming of an anti-MINUSCA discourse that has fuelled attacks against peacekeepers (S/2016/1032, paras. 60–64). Major disappointment with MINUSCA emerged when Bangui-based politicians realized that the aim of the Mission is not to defeat armed groups militarily but rather to foster an inclusive political solution.

69. Many politicians measure the success of MINUSCA only through the latter's capacity to militarily defeat armed groups. The difficulties encountered by the Mission or, in certain cases, its lack of a timely response to imminent threats against civilians is used as a justification to recruit fighters in the remote areas of the country. Paradoxically, the achievements of MINUSCA in the protection of civilians, such as the establishment of an armed group free zone in Bambari, are often also used as the basis for complaints regarding the Mission's perceived lack of will or capacity to replicate the same pattern in other towns.

70. A recourse to FACA is therefore considered by many of the "warmongers" as the only viable solution to defeat armed groups. In this context, the arms embargo is seen as the main obstacle to fulfilling that objective.

Political context and responsibilities

71. The Panel notes with concern that incitement of violence and discriminatory discourse have widely contributed to the mobilization of self-defence groups and to

[52] Bangassou is a good example of this trend. Moroccan peacekeepers were killed and Médecins sans frontières had to interrupt its operation because of attacks aimed at preventing the provision of support to or protection of the Muslim community.

the specific targeting of Muslim communities and peacekeepers during the fighting in the south-east.

72. For instance, on 7 August 2017 in an interview on Radio Ndéké Luka and later published on its Internet website, Michel Kpingo, a Member of Parliament from Gambo (Mbomou Prefecture), accused Moroccan troops of active complicity with the ex-Séléka faction UPC in slaughtering civilians.[53] During a meeting with the Panel, he also justified the killing of peacekeepers in Yongofongo on 8 April 2017, arguing that this had been a case of self-defence following the alleged support of peacekeepers to an imminent ex-Séléka assault.[54]

73. In line with the report of the Secretary-General on MINUSCA of October 2017 (S/2017/865, para. 91), the Panel considers that those inciting hatred and violence should be held accountable. This is particularly critical in a context where perpetrators of incitement to violence and discriminatory discourse have rarely been prosecuted or sentenced in the past.[55]

B. Expansion of self-defence groups in region 6

74. Region 6 groups the Prefectures of Basse-Kotto, Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou.[56] The growing presence of UPC in the area since 2016, which was reinforced following the dislodging of Ali Darassa from Bambari in February 2017, has created frustration among local populations and contributed to the creation of self-defence groups.

75. Since the attack on Bakouma by self-defence groups on 20 March 2017 (S/2017/639, para. 87), this area has witnessed an unprecedented level of violence. Fighting then expanded to Bangassou on 13 May, Gambo on 3 August, Béma on 11 August and Pombolo on 18 October 2017.

76. As shown below, the Panel considers that many of the members and supporters of the so-called self-defence groups active in the area are engaged in a strategy of ethnic cleansing against Muslims justified by the proclaimed need to "liberate" the region from ex-Séléka groups.

77. The process of mobilization of combatants for self-defence groups has involved a wide range of actors, including, on the one hand, a broad support network and, on the other, local political leaders and economic entrepreneurs who saw an opportunity to take over businesses of Muslims. Some of these key actors are identified below.

Wide network of support

78. The offensive of self-defence groups in region 6 is the result of a well-prepared operation involving a wide network of support, including fighters from other prefectures (hereafter called "outside fighters"), as well as individuals connected to the anti-balaka networks.

79. On 20 March 2017, the attack on Bakouma led by Ahmat Raymond was marked by extreme violence and the systematic targeting of Muslim civilians.[57] The Bakouma operation was organized by Hervé Madanbari,[58] a local preacher, whose primary goal

[53] http://www.radiondekeluka.org/securite.html?start=39, accessed on 1 October 2017.
[54] Meeting with Michel Kpingo, Bangui, 8 August 2017.
[55] The Government has set up a commission of inquiry into the events in region 6, for which the results are still pending.
[56] The Central African Republic is divided into 6 regions.
[57] Meeting with confidential source, Bangui, 3 August 2017.
[58] Meetings with confidential sources, Bangui, 3 August and 1 October 2017.

was to oust UPC elements who had taken control of the city in 2016 (S/2017/639, para. 54).

80. In his efforts to mobilize local youth, Madanbari received the support of an anti-balaka leader called "Sossengué", a local chief from Atongo Bakari (Ouaka Prefecture). Sossengué provided support to the attack by performing "vaccination"[59] ceremonies for combatants and establishing contacts with "outside fighters". The role played by Sossengué testifies to the existence of coordination efforts involving a broader anti-balaka network, although the Panel has not collected any evidence of the involvement of anti-balaka coordination, whether under Patrice-Édouard Ngaïssona or Maxime Mokom. In addition, Mokom told the Panel that several leaders of the Bangassou-based self-defence groups had requested his endorsement, but that he had rejected their offer.[60]

81. In Bakouma and during subsequent fighting in the area, "outside fighters" joined local self-defence groups to provide training and advise on military strategy to local youth. "Outside fighters" received compensation through looting and illegal taxation on commercial roads and markets.

82. Among the "outside fighters", Kevin Berebere (from Benzembé, Ouham Prefecture) and Crepin Wakanam alias "Pino Pino" (from Boali, Ombella-Mpoko Prefecture) played key roles in the attack on Bangassou on 13 May 2017. Both presented themselves to the Panel and local authorities as former members of FACA.[61]

83. Berebere also claims to be a former member of Bozizé's Presidential Guard who has come to Mbomou to help "liberate" his country.[62] Berebere supports self-defence groups in Haut-Mbomou, Mbomou and Basse-Kotto Prefectures.[63] He was also reportedly involved in the fighting in Gambo against UPC on 4 and 5 August 2017 (see para. 111).[64] Pino Pino comes from Boali and has family connections in Mbomou. He is currently an influential zone commander in Bangassou and also played an important role in the offensive of self-defence groups towards the Gambo-Alindao axis.[65]

Maxime Mbringa Takama, "sultan" of Bangassou

84. Maxime Takama is a traditional chief of the Nzakara ethic group in Mbomou. However, his position is highly contested by some Mbomou residents, who challenge his Nzakara identity.[66] He is based in Bangui, rarely travels to Bangassou and is aggrieved by the non-recognition of his status as sultan by national authorities.[67] The growing threat posed by UPC in the region was the final trigger for the sultan to take action and advance his political ambitions. The Panel's investigations revealed that Takama was crucial in mobilizing youth networks in Mbomou by appealing to the frustration felt in the Nzakara community, where the feeling of underrepresentation in political and economic sectors is high.[68]

[59] "Vaccination" is a ritual performed by anti-balaka to get mystical powers and protection against conventional weapons.

[60] Meeting with Maxime Mokom, Bangui, 6 August 2017.

[61] Meetings with confidential sources, Bangassou, 9 June and 23 September 2017.

[62] Meeting with Kevin Berebere, Bangassou, Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, 22 September 2017.

[63] Confidential report, 16 October 2017.

[64] Meeting with confidential source, Bangui, 9 October 2017.

[65] Meeting with confidential source, Bangui, 16 October 2017. Telephone conversation with a confidential source, 28 October 2017.

[66] Meetings with Mbomou residents, Bangui, 6 and 8 May and 16 June 2017.

[67] In contrast to Ndele and Birao, the Bangassou sultanate is not officially recognized by national authorities. Meetings with Maxime Takama, Bangui, 19 May and 8 September 2017.

[68] Meetings with Bangui-based members of the Mbomou political elite, self-defence group

85. During a meeting with the Panel, Maxime Takama handed over a document signed on 21 June 2017 entitled "Report on the security and humanitarian crisis in Mbomou", in which he presents alleged accusations against MINUSCA and the Muslim representatives in Bangassou and praises the creation of self-defence groups (annex 4.1).

86. Maxime Takama also acknowledged having organized in October 2016 the transfer of an undisclosed amount of money to Bangassou.[69] The money was intended for Hervé Madanbari in support of the offensive in Bakouma.[70] Individuals connected to Takama also participated in the establishment of self-defence groups. Samuel Nzoungou, a Member of Parliament from Bangassou II, confirmed to the Panel that he was under the authority of Maxime Takama. He is allegedly using his contacts in Bangassou to send money to local fighters.[71] Even if Samuel Nzoungou had denied his involvement in such funding activities, the fact remains that he expressed strong anti-Muslim views in a meeting with the Panel, justifying the 13 May 2017 attack on Bangassou.[72]

87. On several occasions, Maxime Takama portrayed himself as the commander of self-defence groups operating in Mbomou and claimed to be the only actor able to restore peace.[73] In doing so, he hoped to raise his political profile and be officially recognized by the authorities as the sultan of Bangassou.

Legitimization of self-defence groups in Bangassou

88. The self-defence groups in Bangassou were created on 3 September 2016 during a meeting organized by Michel Baguinati, Deputy Mayor of Bangassou and an ally of Maxime Takama. In that meeting, held in the presence of local political and religious authorities, Baguinati requested the local youth to organize themselves in order to protect the town from the attacks of UPC.[74] He also specifically targeted the members of the Muslim community, accusing them of cooperating with the group of Ali Darassa. In its investigation, however, the Panel did not find any evidence of UPC presence in Bangassou.

89. The then-prefect of Mbomou objected to the creation of self-defence groups, which he declared illegal.[75] He was thereafter targeted by a campaign led by local authorities, including the sub-prefect and the Mayor, who accused him of supporting the ex-Séléka factions. The prefect was specifically targeted during the 13 May 2017 attack on Bangassou.

90. A few days after the attack, a group known as "Coordination of region 6 inhabitants" was set up. It includes current and former Members of Parliament and minimal representation from the Muslim community. On 1 July 2017, the coordination group organized a march in Bangui to denounce insecurity in region 6 and presented a memorandum to President Touadéra in which it denied the targeting

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members and local authorities in Bangassou, Bangui, 6 and 8 May and 16 June 2017.

[69] Meeting with Maxime Takama, Bangui, 16 June 2017.

[70] Meeting with a confidential source, Bangui, 3 August 2017.

[71] Meetings with confidential sources, Bangui, 15 June and 3 and 5 August 2017.

[72] Meeting with Samuel Nzoungou, Bangui, 15 June 2017.

[73] Statements made on several occasions including on 27 July 2017 during a meeting in the Ministry of Social Affairs with representatives of the coordination group of region 6 inhabitants, a member of the national religious platform and representatives of the Bangassou Muslim community.

[74] Meetings with confidential sources, Bangassou, 22 September 2017, and Bangui, 3 August 2017.

[75] Meetings with the prefect, 6 October 2016 and 15 June 2017.

of the Muslim community and accused MINUSCA and UPC of being responsible for the instability in the area (annex 4.2).[76]

91. None of the official missions involving ministers and members of Parliament that have visited Bangassou have ever condemned the activities of self-defence groups in front of the local authorities. Several witnesses told the Panel that members of Parliament, including government officials, distributed money to local authorities and leaders of self-defence groups.[77] This is usual practice during an official visit of Bangui-based politicians, but in this case, self-defence groups may have interpreted it as an endorsement of their actions.

Ambiguous position of some leaders of the local Catholic Church

92. Some leaders of the local Catholic Church in Bangassou supported the creation of self-defence groups, which they considered to be a necessary bulwark against a UPC takeover of the town. This is illustrated by the participation of some of these leaders in the meeting on 3 September 2016.[78]

93. Muslim representatives have also accused Abbé Bissialo, a representative of the local church, of working as an intermediary for self-defence groups, undermining his legitimacy to act as the head of the local mediation committee.[79]

94. The local Catholic Church has played a critical role in saving the lives of Muslim citizens of the country who were targeted by self-defence groups.[80] In May 2017, church leaders also clearly condemned the massive violence against the Muslim community, whose members found shelter in church premises.

95. A high-ranking local church member has on many occasions publicly expressed his desire to see the internally displaced persons leave the church area in Bangassou. On several occasions, he has disrupted the provision of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons.[81] This situation has created mistrust between the church leaders and internally displaced persons, who, as a result, looted the seminary for wood and burned motorcycles on 21 July 2017.[82]

96. In reaction to these events, at the end of September 2017 Caritas, a Catholic international NGO, presented to MINUSCA a list of 19 internally displaced persons believed to be foreign fighters and asked for their removal from the church (annex 4.3).[83] The Panel was able to establish that this list had been prepared with the support of leaders of self-defence groups[84] and targeted some Muslim representatives born in Bangassou with no known armed group or military affiliation.[85]

97. Self-defence groups have used the presence of internally displaced persons and the alleged security threat as a way to preserve the status quo and enforce their control over the local economy.

Self-defence groups as a tool to promote economic interests

[76] Meeting with Dobo Zero Paulin, former Member of Parliament, Bangui, 7 August 2017.
[77] Meeting with confidential sources, Bangui, 25 September 2017.
[78] Meeting with confidential sources, Bangassou, 23 September 2017.
[79] Meetings with confidential sources in Bangui, 4 August, and Bangassou, 22 September 2017.
[80] Meetings with confidential sources in Bangassou, 22 September 2017, and Bangui, 25 September 2017.
[81] Meetings with confidential sources in Bangui, 25 September 2017, and Bangassou, 22 and 23 September 2017.
[82] Meeting with a confidential source, 23 July 2017.
[83] Meeting with confidential sources, Bangassou, 23 September 2017.
[84] Meeting with Kevin Berebere, Bangassou, 23 September 2017.
[85] Meetings with local authorities and individuals mentioned in the list, Bangassou, 22 and 23 September 2017.

98. The wide network of individuals involved in supporting self-defence groups also includes actors with an economic agenda. For instance, Yvon Nzélété, an influential artisanal miner, has supported the self-defence groups to take over the businesses of members of the Muslim community in the mining sector.[86] The Panel met with Kevin Berebere in Nzélété's house on 10 October 2016, which demonstrates an existing connection between the two individuals.

99. In fact, the growing area of influence of self-defence groups has benefited non-Muslim economic operators. In particular, the control over the Bangassou-Gambo-Béma axis has provided them with a monopoly over economic activities.[87]

C. Anti-balaka and self-defence groups: recruitment of local fighters and trafficking in arms and military materiel

Recruitment of fighters and need for military equipment

100. The policy of anti-balaka and self-defence groups is to recruit as many fighters as possible for ad hoc military operations. While the leaders of those movements mostly come from outside the actual area of operation, they mobilize combatants among the local communities to amass more fighters and to be able to attack towns on their way.

101. Under the leadership of Pino Pino, Ngadé and Berebere, at least 50 fighters were recruited in Bangassou, Ouango, Béma, Niakari, Bakouma, Kembé and Gambo to attack the UPC stronghold of Gambo (Mbomou Prefecture) on 3 August 2017.[88] More armed elements arrived from Bangassou and Ouango the day after.[88] On 11 August 2017, two self-defence group leaders, Pino Pino and Romaric, attacked Béma (Mbomou Prefecture) with 300 fighters, mostly recruited locally on the road between Bangassou and Béma.[89] Similarly, when self-defence groups attacked Pombolo (Mbomou Prefecture) on 18 October 2017, MINUSCA observed several dozens of armed civilians with artisanal weapons in the town.[90]

102. The planned involvement of such a considerable number of people, mostly civilians, in the attacks and fighting has created an increased demand for weapons and military materiel, leading to a growth in trafficking in military equipment. In contrast with the practice of the various ex-Séléka groups, where the acquisition of weapons is organized at a central level, several self-defence and anti-balaka fighters told the Panel that they generally have to provide their own weapons and ammunition in the fighting, thus creating lucrative business opportunities for manufacturers of artisanal hunting rifles and local merchants taking advantage of cross-border trade networks (S/2017/639, para. 93).

Types of weapons, ammunition and equipment

103. Both anti-balaka and self-defence fighters are still mainly equipped with artisanal weapons, bows and arrows, knives and machetes (annex 4.4, and S/2017/639, annex 6.5). Conventional weapons are primarily used by the leaders of these groups.

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[86] Meetings with confidential sources, Bangassou, 23 September 2017 and Bangui, 4 August 2017.

[87] Meeting with confidential sources, Bangui, 2 and 3 August 2017 and Bangassou, 23 September 2017.

[88] Confidential report obtained by the Panel on 30 October 2017.

[89] Phone discussion with eyewitnesses, 12 August 2017. Meetings with confidential sources, Bangui, 21 September and 12 October 2017.

[90] Confidential report, 19 October 2017.

104. Artisanal weapons are mostly manufactured locally.[91] However, during the period under review self-defence groups have continued to activate new supply networks, especially in recently conquered areas, enabling them to acquire large amounts of industrially produced MACC hunting ammunition (see para. 106), satellite phones, radios, narcotics and some conventional weaponry, mostly AK-type assault rifles, hand grenades, rocket-propelled grenades and a few automatic pistols.[92] Seizures of conventional weapons from anti-balaka and self-defence group fighters also show that the in-country circulation of arms remains significant (annex 4.5, and S/2015/936, para. 45).[93]

Trafficking routes in the south-east

105. The border towns of Satema (Basse-Kotto Prefecture), Bangassou and Béma (Mbomou Prefecture) are major trafficking hubs through which local self-defence groups now purchase military materiel coming from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to resupply their fronts. The strategic location of these towns alongside the Ubangi River, previously held by UPC (S/2016/1032, paras. 143–149, and S/2017/639, paras. 73–75), is the key motive for self-defence groups to conquer these areas.

106. Trafficking in arms, ammunition and military equipment from Yakoma and Ndu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, through Béma and Bangassou, into the Central African Republic, is ongoing (see map in annex 4.6, and S/2016/1032, paras. 143–149).[94] In September, Romaric, Ngadé and Pino Pino bought boxes of MACC hunting ammunition and weapons in Ndu, a village separated from Bangassou only by the Ubangi River, and were briefly arrested by the Congolese military forces. The Panel was informed that military forces in Ndu seized 48 boxes of MACC hunting ammunition intended for self-defence groups in Bangassou.[94]

107. Nathanaël Wabi, a merchant based in Yakoma, has repeatedly been cited as one of the traders of hunting ammunition, gold and diamonds between Yakoma and Béma (S/2016/1032, para. 146).[95] After self-defence groups took the UPC stronghold of Béma, Wabi called on the merchants of Bangassou to return to Béma and Yakoma to revitalize the trade between the towns.[96] The trade in hunting ammunition and weapons remains a lucrative market, which explains why merchants continue to trade these goods alongside other commodities. The Panel observed that MACC hunting ammunition coming from Bangassou is openly sold in markets, shops and camps for internally displaced persons elsewhere in the country, such as in Bria, Kaga Bandoro and Ippy (annex 4.7, and S/2017/639, paras. 92 and 93 and annex 6.4).[97]

108. Finally, on 20 August 2017 FACA elements deployed at M'poko International Airport in Bangui seized 80 BaoFeng BF-777S walkie-talkies transported on an aircraft originating in Bangassou.[98] Several sources confirmed to the Panel that the walkie-talkies were bought in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and smuggled

[91] For example, on 16 October 2017 an anti-balaka element known for manufacturing and selling weapons, was arrested in Kaga Bandoro. Confidential document, 17 October 2017.
[92] Panel's weapons database. Meeting with a confidential source, Bangui, 15 March 2017.
[93] Panel's weapons database.
[94] Meetings with confidential sources, Bangui and Bangassou, 15 and 24 September 2017.
[95] Meeting with confidential source, Bangassou, 22 September 2017. Meeting with self-defence fighter from Bangassou, Bangui, 14 June 2017.
[96] Meeting with confidential source, Bangassou, 22 September 2017.
[97] Meeting with confidential source and shop holders, Bria, 8 October 2017. Meeting with confidential source, Kaga Bandoro, 15 August 2017. Phone conversation with confidential source, Brindisi, 31 October 2017.
[98] Confidential documents obtained by the Panel on 25 September 2017.

into Bangassou to be later sent to Bangui.[99] Several of the eight persons arrested, including Zonabona Nassel Fabrice, an officer of the Presidential Guard, claimed that a number of the walkie-talkies were destined for the Presidential Guard.[100] This case demonstrates that Bangassou has become an entry point through which entities and individuals, including those not related to armed groups, smuggle lethal and non-lethal materiel.

D. Humanitarian impact of the fighting in the south-east of the Central African Republic

109. Since the beginning of 2017, the Central African Republic has experienced a dramatic reprisal of violence that has mostly affected civilians. The number of internally displaced persons has increased by 50 per cent since January 2017 and the number of refugees has increased by more than 50,000. More than 1.1 million people are now displaced (600,000 internally displaced persons and 500,000 refugees) and half the population is in need of humanitarian assistance. Annex 4.8 includes further information on internally displaced persons and refugees in the Central African Republic and neighbouring countries.

110. Fighting in the eastern part of the country is the principal cause of the deterioration in the humanitarian situation. Instability created by the emergence of self-defence groups in Mbomou has expanded to neighbouring prefectures. Eastwards, the Basse-Kotto Prefecture has witnessed a series of clashes between UPC and self-defence groups, with fighters of both groups targeting civilians and humanitarian actors. Westwards, the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture has experienced violent clashes between communities generating massive displacement of populations.

Basse-Kotto: civilians as the main targets of the fighting between the Union pour la paix en Centrafrique and self-defence groups

111. On 3 August 2017, in Gambo (75 km west of Bangassou), self-defence groups clashed with UPC fighters, resulting in at least 30 civilians killed and more than 150 houses burned. Nine volunteers from the national Red Cross were killed by UPC elements while they were working in a health centre. On 4 November 2017 a driver of the national Red Cross was killed by an undetermined armed group on the Grevai-Azene axis in the Kaga Bandoro area.[101] Clashes were also reported in the following days in Ouango, Béma and Pombolo (75 km and 105 km south-west of Bangassou), in which more than 80 people were killed and 96 were injured, and at least 600 persons were displaced.[102]

112. On 10 October 2017, self-defence groups attacked Kembé, then under the control of UPC, including the mosque where a number of Christians and Muslims had sought shelter. Twenty-six of the 44 people inside the Mosque were killed. The discovery of an alleged mass grave in Kembé is still pending investigation and may increase the total number of victims.[103]

113. On 18 October 2017 in Pombolo (28 km west of Gambo, Mbomou Prefecture), self-defence groups launched an attack resulting in at least 26 civilians and two UPC

[99] Meetings with confidential sources, Bangassou and Bangui, 22 and 25 September 2017.
[100] Confidential documents obtained by the Panel on 25 September 2017.
[101] Meeting with International Committee of the Red Cross staff, 5 November 2017.
[102] Confidential reports, 7 and 10 August, 6 September and 19 October 2017.
[103] Confidential report, 11 October 2017.

elements being killed. The alleged existence of another mass grave may also increase the number of victims.[104]

114. Armed groups involved in the clashes in Basse-Kotto Prefecture have been accused of conducting operations aimed at forcibly displacing populations. Victims of attacks by UPC and self-defence groups told the Panel that the armed group said that they wanted to get rid of them because of their belonging to a community seen as an accomplice of the rival group.[105]

Haut-Mbomou Prefecture: rise of inter-community violence

115. Until mid-2017, Zémio and Mboki (Haut-Mbomou Prefecture) had not been affected by fighting between ex-Séléka groups and non-Muslim groups, whether anti-balaka or self-defence groups. However, after the attack by self-defence groups on Bangassou on 13 May 2017, tensions and mistrust started spreading among communities all along the Bangassou-Rafai-Zémio-Mboki-Obo axis.

Zémio

116. An outbreak of violence between the Muslim minority and the non-Muslim community on 29 June 2017 in Zémio resulted in the destruction of houses, the killing of at least 22 civilians and an undetermined number of people injured. About 18,000 civilians sought refuge around the MINUSCA base, the Catholic church and the local hospital, while some few hundreds decided to cross the river to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

117. The event triggered a cycle of violence and reprisals. On 7 July 2017, almost all the internally displaced persons from Zémio crossed the river and sought refuge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The displacement was the result of a rumour of an alleged imminent attack by armed members of the Muslim community. From the end of June to mid-September, houses and NGO offices were looted, in spite of the presence of MINUSCA (annex 4.9).

118. On 11 July 2017, a minor was killed and several people were injured inside the Médecins sans frontières hospital in Zémio.[106] On 14 July 2017, a FACA soldier was killed during another round of inter-communal violence.[107] On 17 August 2017, another attack against internally displaced persons in Zémio resulted in at least eight people being killed and a dozen more injured.[108]

Mboki

119. Tensions between religious communities have also reached Mboki (60 km south-west of Obo), an economic hub in the Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, with a strong presence of merchants from Chad and the Sudan. Starting in June 2017, rumours spread in the city of the presence of UPC fighters and of incursions of elements of self-defence groups from Bangassou.[109]

120. On 25 June 2017, an exchange of fire between FACA officers and members of the Muslim community resulted in the killing of at least three FACA members and an

[104] Confidential report, 20 October 2017.

[105] Meetings with internally displaced persons from Mobaye and Alindao, Bangui, 25 September 2017.

[106] Meetings with internally displaced persons at the hospital and NGO members, Zémio, 21 September 2017.

[107] Meeting with FACA Corporal Malebakpa, 21 September 2017.

[108] Meetings with residents and NGO members, Zémio (Haut-Mbomou Prefecture), 21 September 2017.

[109] Meeting with internally displaced persons from Mboki, 13 September. Meetings with local authorities, Obo, 11 and 12 September 2017.

undetermined number of civilians being injured.[110] Fearing an escalation of the conflict, members of the non-Muslim community fled Mboki and sought refuge in Obo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.[111]

Obo

121. Adding to the departure of the Uganda People's Defence Forces of the African Union Regional Task Force and United States forces supporting them (S/2017/639, paras. 79–81), the presence of South Sudanese traffickers (S/2016/1032, para. 19)[112] and the threat of attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have increased insecurity in Obo. Obo has recently been affected by the arrival of a large number of internally displaced persons following the incidents in Zémio and Mboki. With an increase in its population by 50 per cent, Obo has experienced a competition for resources which reinforces the risk of inter-community violence.[113]

122. The killing of a Fulani family 5 km outside Obo on 16 July 2017 and the arrest in Obo of two fighters from self-defence groups on 2 September 2017 have fuelled the fears of reprisal among inhabitants in the town.[114]

Central African refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

123. From May to September 2017, nearly 100,000 people have sought refuge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, bringing the total number of refugees from the Central African Republic in that country to more than 167,000 (annex 4.8). The Provinces of Bas-Uele and Nord-Ubangi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are the most affected by the influx of refugees.

124. In Zémio and Mboki, clashes have resulted in massive displacement of people. Approximately 18,000 crossed the Ubangi River into the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the month of July 2017 alone. Many of the refugees have provisionally settled right on the bank of the river on the Democratic Republic of the Congo side or on islands along the Ubangi and Mbomou Rivers, which makes it difficult to have a clear assessment of their total number.

Continuous threat from the Lord's Resistance Army

125. During the reporting period, there have been 47 reported incidents attributed to LRA in the Central African Republic, in which there were nine fatalities and 132 persons abducted, mostly minors and women.[115] Defectors and escapees from LRA told the Panel that, despite limited capacities in terms of fighters, the LRA still has the capacity to conduct operations in the east.[116]

2017: deadliest year for peacekeepers

126. As reported by the Panel (S/2017/639, paras. 106–109) most attacks against peacekeepers have occurred in the Basse-Kotto, Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou

[110] Meeting with FACA Chief of Staff, Bangui, 16 October 2017.
[111] Meeting with internally displaced persons from Mboki, 13 September 2017. Meeting with FACA Captain Yakoro and Gbosso Melchissedik, Commander of the Gendarmerie, 21 September 2017.
[112] Confidential source, 6 September 2017.
[113] Meetings with internally displaced persons from Zémio and Mboki, local authorities and confidential sources, 11–13 September 2017. Meetings with South Sudanese refugees and LRA escapees, 12 and 13 September 2017.
[114] Meetings with detainees, FACA Captain Yakoro and Gbosso Melchissedik, Commander of the Gendarmerie, 21 September 2017.
[115] Based on Panel of Experts database and https://www.lracrisistracker.com/. See annex 4.10 on the humanitarian impact of LRA attacks.
[116] Meetings with LRA escapees, Obo, 9 April and 12 September 2017.

Prefectures. To date, 12 peacekeepers have been killed in the Central African Republic in 2017 (annex 4.11).

127. Attacks continue to take place along the Kouango-Mobaye-Bangassou-Rafai-Zémio-Obo road on an almost daily basis. On 23 July 2017, two peacekeepers were killed in Bangassou,[117] making the Mbomou Prefecture the deadliest place for peacekeepers in the Central African Republic with nine deaths in total.

128. Several investigative reports refer to "General Arnaud" coordinator of self-defence groups at Yongofongo, Joseph Kossa or Freddy, Crepin Wekanam alias "Pino Pino", and "Ngadé", as the perpetrators of the attack against peacekeepers in Yongofongo, and possibly other attacks in the Bangassou area. However, further criminal investigation by national or international authorities is needed to determine the extent of their responsibility as well as the participation of other individuals. These attacks against peacekeepers may constitute war crimes.

The most dangerous place for humanitarian actors

129. Confirming trends described in the Panel's midterm report (S/2017/639, paras. 110–112), attacks against humanitarians have continued to rise, making the Central African Republic the most dangerous place for humanitarian actors to operate.[118] To date in 2017, 13 humanitarians have been killed and three have been abducted (annex 4.12).[118]

130. The Panel is particularly concerned by attacks that took place inside health facilities and against health workers. The killing of nine Red Cross volunteers in Gambo on 3 August 2017 and the shooting inside Zémio's Médecins sans frontières hospital on 11 July 2017 (see para. 118) may be considered as war crimes.

Conflict-related sexual violence

131. The Panel has obtained several testimonies confirming that conflict-related sexual violence continues to be a widespread phenomenon in the Central African Republic and that it is used by armed groups as a tool for punishment or reprisal.

132. For example, victims from Alindao and Mobaye indicated to the Panel that self-defence groups and UPC fighters carried out acts of sexual violence, particularly rape against females and males,[119] as a method of torture. They have targeted individuals belonging to specific religious or ethnic communities associated with the armed groups they are fighting against.[119] Annex 4.13 includes testimonies of victims who cited self-defence group members Angimba Martin, Bonanga Bernard and Zack Agath, as well as UPC elements under the command of Atai Mamat, as perpetrators of such acts.

133. To address this issue, the Government has established a Unité mixte d'intervention rapide et de répression des violences sexuelles faites aux femmes et aux enfants tasked to identify crimes, help victims and prosecute perpetrators of sexual violence.[120]

[117] Confidential report, 24 July 2017.

[118] Based on data collected by International NGO Safety Organization, Central African Republic facts and figures database, available from http://www.ngosafety.org/keydata-dashboard/, accessed on 30 October 2017.

[119] Similar findings have been reported for example by Human Rights Watch, in *"They Said We Are Their Slaves": Sexual Violence by Armed Groups in the Central African Republic* (5 October 2017).

[120] Meeting with Captain Paul Amédée Moyenzo, Director, Unité mixte d'intervention rapide et de répression des violences sexuelles faites aux femmes et aux enfants, 9 August 2017.

V. Dynamics related to ex-Séléka factions: economic rivalries, trafficking interests and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law

A. Struggle for influence among ex-Séléka factions

134. In its midterm report (S/2017/639, paras. 52–63), the Panel described an open confrontation between UPC and the FPRC-led coalition between November 2016 and March 2017. Since then, no significant fighting has occurred between the groups. Instead, a struggle for influence among ex-Séléka factions has taken place, with Bria as the epicentre and the only place where sporadic clashes have recently taken place between these groups.

135. Beginning in June 2017, UPC and FPRC representatives have engaged in negotiations on a ceasefire agreement[121] to stop the ongoing fighting. The Ippy agreement of 9 October 2017 (annex 5.1) is the result of these efforts and is aimed at reconciling the competing, mainly economic, interests of the groups. It has, however, failed to enable the military and political reunification promoted by listed individuals Abdoulaye Hissène and Nourredine Adam.

Ippy agreement: yet another reunification attempt?

136. UPC leader Ali Darassa and listed individual Abdoulaye Hissène were the initiators of the meeting held in Ippy (Ouaka Prefecture) from 2 to 10 October 2017. Their main objective was to secure freedom of movement on the Bria-Bambari road and the reopening of the transhumance corridors, which have effectively been closed for almost a year because of the insecurity, in advance of the coming dry season.

137. The agreement was also signed by a representative of Gaetan Boadé, leader of the Rassemblement des républicains (RDR), an anti-balaka movement established in Bambari on 26 August 2017. Boadé, a former member of the Ngaïssona coordination group of anti-balaka, had fought against Ali Darassa's UPC since 2014 and joined the FPRC-led coalition in March 2016 (S/2017/639, para. 60), before leaving and creating RDR. RDR controls the Ndassima gold mine, as well as, in cooperation with FPRC elements, the axes around Ippy, which are key for both commercial exchanges and transhumance (see map in annex 5.2).

Transhumance: a key aspect of the economy in Ouaka and Haute-Kotto Prefectures

138. The current crisis, which started in 2013, has changed the dynamics of transhumance in the country and made the Ouaka Prefecture the main centre of the cattle economy in the Central African Republic.[122] The three main rural livestock communes (*commune d'élevage*) of the Ouaka Prefecture are Baidou, Maloum and Bokolobo[123] (annex 5.2). The reopening of the transhumance corridors towards these towns, as foreseen by the Ippy agreement, aims at generating important revenues for armed groups which are signatories to the agreement, through illegal taxation at roadblocks, payments by cattle herders for security services and taxation of the cattle trade.

[121] Meeting with a confidential source, Bangui, 30 September 2017.

[122] *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Danish Refugee Council and Catholic Relief Services, joint mission report, "Situation de la transhumance et étude socioanthropologique des populations pastorales après la crise de 2013-2014 en République centrafricaine" (March 2015).*

[123] Meeting with a confidential source, Bangui, 25 September 2017.

Vital agreement for the survival of the Union pour la paix en Centrafrique

139. In its midterm report, the Panel provided information on the existing difficulties for UPC in fighting the FPRC-led coalition and sustaining several military fronts (S/2017/639, paras. 73–75). In August 2017, UPC lost several key positions to self-defence groups in the Haut-Mbomou and Basse-Kotto Prefectures (see para. 105).[124] The increasing insecurity on the Bambari-Alindao-Gambo axis, an important line of supply and source of revenue through checkpoints, has created additional pressure on UPC. In this context, the reopening of the Bambari-Bria axis, foreseen by the Ippy agreement, has provided UPC with a new supply line.

Unclear reshuffle within the National Council on Defence and Security[125]

140. The Ippy agreement also had a political dimension. In the aftermath of the Ippy meeting, sanctioned individual Nourredine Adam issued a communiqué confirming Abdoulaye Hissène as President of the National Council on Defence and Security and appointing Ali Darassa as his deputy (annex 5.3). However, on 21 October 2017 the UPC leader denied any involvement in the chain of command within the Council, while confirming his commitment to the Ippy agreement (annex 5.4).

141. Before the Ippy agreement was signed, on 1 October 2017 the leader of the Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique (MPC), General Mahamat Al-Khatim, issued a communiqué denying any further involvement in the FPRC-led coalition and stepping down from his position as Chief of Staff of the National Council on Defence and Security (annex 5.5).[126] Through this statement, he was probably expressing his discontent with not having been involved in the Ippy discussions with UPC. On 10 October 2017, Al-Kathim nonetheless expressed his willingness to sign the agreement.[127] Joining the deal would be beneficial for his economic interests (cattle markets and taxation, roadblocks) by re-establishing freedom of movement between MPC and UPC areas of influence.

142. This series of communiqués demonstrates the confusion around the actual organization of the National Council on Defence and Security, as well as the prevalence of economic considerations in the decisions and alliances made by ex-Séléka leaders.

Refusal by the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique to participate in the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation process

143. The formation of a new ex-Séléka coalition remains a key objective of Abdoulaye Hissène and Nourredine Adam, both eager to reinforce the group's influence in the ongoing political processes and push for a new global agreement (see para. 60).

144. The refusal of FPRC to participate in the pilot project for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation constitutes a political posture by the leaders of the group, who aim to convince other ex-Séléka factions to reconsider their involvement in that process.[128] According to FPRC representatives, the national army is not ready to integrate ex-Séléka fighters and those who join FACA would put their lives at risk. Ongoing recruitment and training of the internal security forces (see

[124] Confidential reports, 6 and 19 August 2017.

[125] The National Council on Defence and Security is the military branch of the FPRC coalition as created during the General Assembly held in Bria on 18 and 19 October 2016 (S/2017/639, para. 58).

[126] Confidential report, 3 October 2017.

[127] Confidential report, 11 October 2017.

[128] Meeting with FPRC representatives, Bangui, 30 September 2017.

para. 14), which was conducted without integrating armed group members, is perceived as an attempt by the Government to reinforce the army in order to defeat the ex-Séléka militarily.

Bria: the armed groups' city

145. Bria (Haute-Kotto Prefecture) hosts factions of almost all the main armed groups of the Central African Republic. The situation in the city, which has experienced regular episodes of violence since November 2016, illustrates the complex relationship between the armed groups in general, and ex-Séléka factions in particular.

146. The National Council on Defence and Security, with its headquarters in Bria, gathers the main ex-Séléka factions except UPC, although the latter group is also present in Bria (in the Gobolo neighbourhood). However, the crumbling of the armed groups makes it difficult for the Council to exercise effective control over its factions. The main division inside the Council is centred around the rivalry between the Rounga ethnic group, led in Bria by Abdoulaye Hissène (FPRC/Rounga), and the Goula ethnic group, led by General Damane (FPRC/Goula). Before joining FPRC, the Goulas of the coalition were gathered in the Rassemblement patriotique pour le renouveau de la Centrafrique.

Resurgence of the Rounga/Goula rivalry

147. The Rounga and Goula communities have a long history of conflict. Clashes between armed groups claiming to represent these communities have regularly taken place, including in Bria, where the Union des forces démocratiques pour le rassemblement (Goula) and the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix (Rounga), two groups which later took part in the creation of the Séléka, fought in September 2011 (S/2011/739, para. 13). This rivalry and the mistrust between the groups persists today, as illustrated by the clashes of the past months which took place along clear ethnic lines.

Fighting among armed groups as a result of tensions among communities

148. In its midterm report, the Panel underlined the concerns of the leaders of both ethnic and armed groups from the Arab and Sara communities regarding the participation of individuals from anti-balaka and self-defence groups in the FPRC-led coalition (S/2017/639, para. 62). They were concerned that the anti-Muslim rhetoric used by these individuals, mostly from the Banda community, would eventually result in attacks against them. In May and June 2017, armed elements from the Arab and Sara communities clashed with the Banda self-defence groups coming from Bakouma.

149. Thereafter, FPRC/Goula refused to support Arab and Sara elements allied with Abdoulaye Hissène, preferring to collaborate with the Banda self-defence groups.[129] The FPRC/Goula decided to take advantage of this opportunity to weaken the FPRC/Rounga under Abdoulaye Hissène, whom they accuse of manipulating the National Council on Defence and Security to promote Hissène's economic interests.[130] Leaders of the FPRC/Goula have also adopted a rhetoric hostile towards the Arab and Sara communities, which is reminiscent of the anti-Fulani discourse that several of them have used in the past (S/2017/639, para. 63).[131]

[129] Meeting with a confidential source, Bria, 8 October 2017.
[130] Meeting with General Aubin Issa Banda, Bria, 6 October 2017.
[131] Meeting with General Khalit Azor, Bria, 6 October 2017.

150. The self-defence groups in Bria are operating under the influence of the FPRC/Goula. Their leader, François Plenga alias General Bokassa, was elected by the Bria sub-prefecture's zone commanders in June 2016.[132] His authority remains fragile, however, as many members of the Banda community, who want to take their revenge against ex-Séléka factions in Bria,[133] consider Bokassa as too moderate.[134] Maxime Mokom has reportedly approached leaders of self-defence groups and attempted to bring them under his leadership, but they refused and insisted that they be considered as self-defence groups rather than anti-balaka elements.[135]

Consequences of the Ippy agreement in Bria

151. As a result of the fighting between FPRC/Goula and FPRC/Rounga, Goula leader Azor Khalit was removed from his position as Chief of Staff of the National Council on Defence and Security by Nourredine Adam on 21 July 2017 and replaced by Ali Ousta. Although he is a member of the Goula community, Ali Ousta has no military background and only limited legitimacy within the ex-Séléka.[136] His appointment will therefore not contribute to the reconciliation of the Goula and Rounga communities but rather illustrates the weakening of the influence of the Goulas within the National Council.

152. Abdoulaye Hissène did not involve the FPRC/Goula faction in the negotiation of the Ippy agreement. By striking a deal, not only with UPC but also with RDR of Gaetan Boadé, which includes a large number of Bandas, Abdoulaye Hissène has attempted to sideline the FPRC/Goula and undermine their alliance with the Bandas.

B. Establishment of parallel administration structures by the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique

153. Tax collection is one of the key objectives of establishing parallel administration structures by ex-Séléka factions, FPRC in particular. Christophe Gazam Betty, FIT Protection General Manager, confirmed that FPRC continues to tax all economic activities undertaken in the Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture (S/2017/639, annex 5.10). He told the Panel that in early 2017 Abdoulaye Hissène had requested financial compensation for FIT Protection to pursue its provision of private security for oil exploration activities in Gaskay (S/2016/1032, paras. 213–215). As the financial offers he made were considered to be unsatisfactory by the FPRC leader, FIT Protection was forced to stop its activities under pressure from the group's fighters.[137]

154. As a testimony of the intention of FPRC to maintain control over their areas of influence, Nourredine Adam has expressed the group's strong opposition to the deployment of the prefects and sub-prefects recently appointed by President Touadéra (annex 5.6).

155. Likewise, at the initiative of Nourredine Adam, FPRC has organized training sessions for the youth in Sikikédé (Vakaga Prefecture) to develop the human resources required to maintain a parallel administration. Between 1 and 4 April 2017, 50 individuals selected by the group took part in a capacity-building course on public administration and management conducted by a Sudanese consultancy firm named Althuraya (annex 5.7).

[132] Meeting with General Bokassa, Bria, 6 October 2017.
[133] Confidential report, 21 June 2017.
[134] Confidential report, 25 August 2017.
[135] Meeting with Bokassa and confidential sources, Bria, 6S8 October 2017.
[136] Meeting with a confidential source, Bria, 8 October 2017.
[137] Meeting with Christophe Gazam Betty, Bangui, 8 April 2017.

C. Trafficking in natural resources in areas under control of ex-Séléka factions

156. The illegal exploitation of mineral resources has remained a key source of revenue for armed groups deployed in the east of the Central African Republic, including ex-Séléka factions and now in some cases anti-balaka and self-defence groups. Armed groups continue to gain revenues mainly through illegal taxation and racketing of artisanal miners and collectors, as well as the provision of security services (S/2017/639, annex 5.10, S/2015/936, paras. 126–129, and S/2014/762, para. 124).

157. The main areas of diamond-sourcing remain the Prefectures of Haute-Kotto (mainly around Bria, Sam Ouandja and Yalinga) and to a lesser extent Ouaka and Mbomou Prefectures. Diamond sites, though of modest size, are also exploited in the Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture. Gold is mainly sourced in the Ouaka Prefecture.

158. Minerals from these areas continue to be smuggled through Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan (S/2015/936, paras. 133 and 134). They are transported by road, and also using aerial means, as demonstrated by two recent seizures.

Seizure of diamonds in Bangui (30 June 2017)

159. On 30 June 2017, the Special Anti-Fraud Unit confiscated 234.4 carats of undeclared diamonds from Patrick Kozungu-Yakangi at M'poko International Airport in Bangui upon his arrival on a Minair flight from Bria.

160. During his interrogation by the Unit, Kozungu-Yakangi acknowledged having bought diamonds in Bria and planning to take them to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (annex 5.8).

161. Kozungu-Yakangi was arrested after being accused by two artisanal miners who felt he had betrayed them by going to Bangui without sharing revenues. When ex-Séléka leader Abdoulaye Hissène learned about the arrest of Kozungu-Yakangi, he requested compensation from the two artisanal miners arguing that any diamond activities undertaken in Bria must have his prior approval.[138]

162. Kozungu-Yakangi remained in jail at the Research and Investigation Section for a few days only. The Section and the Unit blame each other for the early release of the accused, which prevented the opening of a proper investigation of the case.[139]

Seizure of diamonds in Douala, Cameroon (6 August 2017)

163. On 6 August 2017, Abadi Shouki was arrested at Douala International Airport with 21 carats of rough diamonds (annex 5.9). That day he had flown from Bria to Bangui and then proceeded to Douala in Cameroon aboard aircraft operated respectively by Lapara and Kenya Airways. Authorities of Cameroon and the Central African Republic told the Panel that Shouki was planning to fly from Douala to Lebanon on a Turkish Airlines flight and thereafter to the United Arab Emirates.[140]

164. Since 8 May 2017, Shouki has been subject to a warrant from the Public Prosecutor of the Bria Regional Court following the filing of a case by the buying house Sahr Diam (annex 5.10). Sahr Diam's managers sued Shouki for breach of trust worth more than FCFA 100 million ($177,000), arguing that Shouki had borrowed

[138] Meeting with confidential sources and an artisanal miner, Bria, 7 and 8 October 2017.

[139] Meeting with Chief of the Research and Investigation Section, Bangui, 5 August 2017. Meeting with Special Anti-Fraud Unit commander, Bangui, 7 August 2017.

[140] Meeting with Custom chief at Douala airport, Douala, 11 September 2017.

money from the house to buy diamonds in the west of the country and never reimbursed them.[141]

165. Abadi Shouki is a licensed collector registered in Bria where he has been active for several years. The Panel noted his presence in the city in September 2016 and May 2017. In May 2017, gendarmerie officers attempted to implement the warrant against Shouki in Bria but failed to arrest him, as fighters commanded by Abdoulaye Hissène protected him.[142]

166. Although the value of the diamonds confiscated from Abadi Shouki in Douala, Cameroon, is relatively insignificant (CFAF 4.1 million, or $7,300),[143] the support he received during his trip, both in Bangui and Douala, demonstrates that he belongs to a broader trafficking network. His Bangui-Douala plane ticket was reportedly purchased on the morning of the flight at Bangui airport by Mahamat Moustapha,[144] a former collector who was apprehended in possession of undeclared diamonds at Bangui airport on 28 May 2016 (S/2016/1032, para. 172, box 2).

Transportation of minerals by commercial aircraft

167. Small aircraft are a preferred way of transporting undeclared diamonds to Bangui from mining areas like Bria. Managers of aircraft companies told the Panel that only airport authorities had the legal responsibility to verify whether undeclared minerals are transported by passengers.[145]

168. In areas like Bria, where there is currently no official airport authority and MINUSCA has limited control over the airport, no proper search of passengers is conducted. Any plane going to Bangui can therefore be used to transport minerals to the capital.[146] Artisanal miners or collectors can buy plane tickets in Bria;[147] at times, some have also benefited from the collaboration of elements of armed groups to threaten plane crews and let them board the plane.[148]

169. The Panel notes with satisfaction that the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo has undertaken to produce recommendations for guidelines to streamline and enhance the control of unwrought gold transported in carry-on luggage of passengers of commercial aircraft (S/2017/672/Rev.1, paras. 110–112). The Panel stands ready to support the Group of Experts in this regard.

D. Ex-Séléka weaponry and trafficking

Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique, Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique/Goula and Movement patriotique pour la Centrafrique weaponry and arms trafficking

170. FPRC, FPRC/Goula and MPC are well equipped with conventional arms, military uniforms, satellite phones, motorcycles and vehicles (S/2015/936,

[141] Meeting with officials from the mining administration, Bangui, 4 September 2017.

[142] Meeting with confidential sources, Bria, 8 October 2017.

[143] Media in Cameroon initially announced that the diamonds seized were worth CFAF 650 million ($1.1 million). See http://apanews.net/fr/news/saisie-de-diamants-bruts-a-laeroport-de-douala.

[144] Meeting with individuals working at Bangui airport, Bangui, 8 September 2017.

[145] Meetings with Via Air, Lapara and Minair managers, Bangui, 6, 8 and 9 September 2017.

[146] Meeting with an artisanal miner, Bria, 7 October 2017.

[147] In two communications to the Panel dated 15 September and 25 October 2017, Minair, a sister company of listed entity Badica/Kardiam, denied selling plane tickets in Bria. Many sources, including the individual selling the tickets, confirmed the contrary to the Panel. Panel's mission to Bria, 6–10 October 2017.

[148] Meeting with confidential sources, Bangui, 10 September 2017, and Bria, 9 October 2017.

paras. 163, 164, 173 and 174, and S/2017/639, para. 64).[149] Leaders of armed groups carry pistols which the Panel did not observe earlier. Although the tracing request to the Government of China was inconclusive, the pistol that General Al-Khatim showed to the Panel on 13 September 2017 had similar design, characteristics, dimensions and markings to that of a Chinese manufactured QSZ-92-9 pistol (9x19mm calibre) (serial number S019461 03 236).[150] Abdoulaye Hissène was seen with a calibre 9x19 pistol of Turkish manufacture (annex 5.11).[151]

171. In Ouandago (Nana-Grébizi Prefecture), the Panel observed approximately 65 FPRC/MPC combatants commanded by General Al-Khatim and Ali Zabadi, carrying AK-type assault rifles, machine guns and sub-machine guns, as well as a 12.7 calibre machine gun mounted atop a vehicle (annex 5.12).[152] Similar weaponry was observed along the axis between Batangafo, Kabo and Sido, under FPRC/MPC control, as well as in Bria and Ndélé.[153]

172. In its previous reports, the Panel highlighted that Moussa Assimeh, one of the most important Séléka generals in 2013, has been recruiting and introducing Sudanese armed fighters and weaponry into the Central African Republic in support of the FPRC-led coalition (S/2017/639, annex 5.9). This information was confirmed to the Panel by General Zacharia Damane, leader of the FPRC/Goula faction.[154] Moussah Assimeh operates from Nyala, the Sudan, where he loads the trucks of General Muhamat Djouma with weapons. The traffickers then transport the weaponry via Am Dafok, Tulu (a Sudanese border village 120 km south of Am Dafok), Ouanda Djalle (Vakaga Prefecture) and Ouadda, to Bria, the final destination of the cargo.[155] Part of the weaponry reportedly originates from Libya.[156]

173. In February 2017, a deal worth CFAF 12 million ($21,000) was struck between General Damane and a Sudanese merchant for the supply of weapons and ammunition.[157] The weapons were transported in commercial trucks via the road between Tulu and Ouadda (Haut-Kotto Prefecture), as observed by an eyewitness, where they were received by General Damane, who was able to make the purchase because of his lucrative taxation system (annex 5.13). General Issa Banda and General Azor Kalit, both reporting to General Damane, have been in charge of the acquisition of weapons for the FPRC/Goula faction.[158]

Anti-poaching efforts and buying of ammunition from ex-Séléka

174. As observed in the Panel's previous reports, poaching and wildlife trafficking have provided income to local ex-Séléka forces in the past, especially in the north-east and south-east of the country (S/2014/452, paras. 71–75, S/2015/936, paras. 109–112, and S/2016/1032, paras. 185–188). Heavily armed poachers from the Sudan and nomadic cattle herders continue to operate in the area, especially inside Chinko National Park, managed by the Chinko project,[159] but also in the northern Bamingui-

[149] Panel's weapons database. Archived at the United Nations.
[150] Meeting with Al-Kathim, Kaga Bandoro 15 August 2017.
[151] Meeting with confidential source, 13 October 2013.
[152] Panel's mission to Ouandago, 15 August 2017.
[153] Panel's missions to Kaga Bandoro, Kabo and Sido, 11–16 August. Panel's mission to Ndélé and Akoursoulbak, 17–19 October. Panel's field mission to Bria, 6–10 October 2017.
[154] Meeting with General Zacharia Damane, Birao, 24 January 2017.
[155] Meetings with confidential source, Bangui, 24 September and 20 October 2017. Confidential document, 28 February 2017.
[156] Meetings with confidential source, Bangui, 24 September and 20 October 2017.
[157] Meetings with confidential source, Bangui, 24 September and 20 October 2017.
[158] Ibid. Also, meeting with Issa Banda Obin, Bria, 6 October 2017.
[159] Panel's mission to Chinko Park, 14–16 May 2017. Confidential document obtained by the Panel, May 2017. Meetings with the Director of the Chinko project, 12 April and 13 October 2017.

Bangoran and Manovo-Gounda-Saint Flores national parks, managed by the Ecofaune project.[159] Several seizures of arms and ammunition in Chinko Park show that poaching gangs are equipped with AK-type assault rifles of various origin and sub-machine and machine guns.

175. While the Panel acknowledges that wildlife conservation projects need additional items of lethal and non-lethal equipment to conduct anti-poaching activities (S/2016/1032, para. 188), it is essential that the acquisition of weapons is undertaken without violating the sanctions regime. The Ecofaune project informed the Panel that 571 rounds of military ammunition were purchased from individuals connected to the FPRC for the training of 26 candidate-rangers.[160] This was also confirmed by other sources.[161]

176. Lastly, the Panel recalls that the training of rangers is subject to a prior notification procedure and stresses that the recruitment of rangers must be done carefully as conservation projects are operating in areas under the control of armed groups. It must be noted that at least three Chinko rangers joined self-defence groups following the FPRC attack on Bakouma on 11 June 2017.[162]

Union pour la paix en Centrafrique weaponry and arms trafficking

177. In its previous reports, the Panel highlighted that under pressure from the FPRC-led coalition, UPC revenues and arms supplies have dwindled (S/2017/639, paras. 73–75). The takeover in August 2017 of Béma and Satema (the main UPC trafficking hubs) by self-defence groups, as well as the recurrent clashes on the main supply roads,[163] inflicted a hard blow on the capacity of UPC to acquire arms and ammunition from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2016/1032, paras. 143–149).

178. Several seizures, as well as information obtained by the Panel about UPC fighters in Alindao, however, show that the group is still well equipped with conventional arms, mostly AK-type assault rifles, rocket propelled grenades and 12.7 calibre machine guns mounted atop vehicles,[164] as well as with military uniforms, satellite phones and vehicles.[165]

179. Just before the takeover of Béma by self-defence groups, UPC reportedly increased its imports of 12.7 mm and 14 mm ammunition.[166] One UPC leader informed the Panel that the group continued to activate its connections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and South Sudan, and that weapons were transported via the Djema-Obo-Zémio-Mboki axis to Alindao using cattle-herder roads.[167] He also declared that they had recuperated AK-type assault rifles and AK-47 cartridges from the corpses of self-defence group fighters on the Alindao-Gambo axis.[167]

180. Kouango, Mobaye, Zémio, Obo and Djema, all located along the Ubangi River, are the new main entry points for the rearmament of both UPC and armed ethnic Fulani which UPC claims to protect.[168] On 7 August 2017, the defence and security

[160] Meeting with Ecofaune, Bangui, 13 and 16 October 2017.

[161] Meeting with confidential sources, Bangui, 21 September 2017.

[162] Communication from Chinko project, 9 July 2017. Meeting with the Chinko project, Bangui, 21 September 2017.

[163] Confidential documents, 14 and 15 September and 13 October 2017.

[164] Panel's weapons database. See also S/2015/936, para. 69, and S/2017/639, annex 5.15.

[165] Pictures obtained by the Panel from confidential source on 18 and 31 October 2017, archived at United Nations. Confidential document, 22 March 2017.

[166] Meeting with confidential sources and eye-witnesses, Bangui, 21 September 2017.

[167] Meeting with UPC leader, Bambari, 19 September 2017.

[168] Confidential document, 11 October 2017. Telephone conversation with political adviser of UPC, Hassan Bouba, 2 November 2017.

forces of the Bas-Uele Province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo arrested an individual carrying six 20-litre containers filled with military ammunition.[169] The trafficker intended to cross the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the direction of Zémio and transfer the ammunition to armed Fulani in contact with UPC in Alindao. The Panel has requested the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide further details on this specific seizure, but at the time of writing the present report, the response was still pending.

E. Violation of human rights and international humanitarian law by ex-Séléka factions

Attacks against civilians and humanitarian actors in the Ouham Prefecture

181. During the period under review, the Batangafo-Kabo-Moyenne-Sido axis (Ouham Prefecture) has been a hotspot for attacks against civilians and humanitarian actors.[170]

182. On 29 July 2017, during fighting between ex-Séléka fighters under General Al-Khatim and anti-balaka in Batangafo, several houses, including NGO residences and offices, were looted and destroyed (annex 5.14). At least 10,000 people reportedly sought refuge at the Médecins sans frontières hospital, 5,000 at the church, 6,000 around the MINUSCA site and 3,000 more in different locations across the town. On 5 August 2017, a humanitarian convoy was stopped and looted by Colonel René Linga and elements of his anti-balaka group.[171]

183. On 25 August 2017 in Batangafo, clashes between anti-balaka, under Colonel René Linga, zone commander "Gaba" and "Zomboro", on the one hand, and MPC, under General Al-Khatim, on the other, resulted in a new wave of displacement of the population and the suspension of the provision of humanitarian assistance.[172]

184. On 7 September 2017, MPC and FPRC elements from Batangafo, under "Kader", abducted three humanitarian workers (two from an international NGO and one from a national one) accusing them of complicity with anti-balaka. They released the workers from the international NGO but killed the member of the local NGO.[173]

185. On the same day, new clashes between elements of René Linga and General Al-Khatim caused the death of five civilians. Some of the victims were internally displaced persons inside the Médecins sans frontières hospital. As a consequence, humanitarian organizations decided to suspend activities in the area with the exception of the hospital. The compound of the Danish Refugee Council was also attacked and looted by elements affiliated to René Linga's group.[174]

186. In Kabo (Ouham Prefecture), the Panel noted that the local population is under the constant threat of elements of MPC and FPRC under Mahamat Halu, who act as the de facto authorities of the city.[175] The withdrawal of MINUSCA from Kabo in April 2017, replaced by MINUSCA patrols every two weeks, has left a security

[169] Meeting with confidential sources, Bangassou, 23 September 2017.

[170] Panel's mission to Batangafo, Kabo and Moyen Sido, 11–14 August 2017. Confidential report, 9 June 2017. Panel of Experts database, January–October 2017.

[171] Confidential reports, 6 and 7 August 2017.

[172] Panel's communications with confidential sources, 4 and 5 September 2017.

[173] Panel's communications with confidential sources, 8–10 September 2017.

[174] Confidential reports, 8–10 September 2017. Panel's communications with confidential sources, 8–10 September 2017.

[175] Panel's visit to Batangafo, Kabo and Moyenne-Sido, 11–14 August 2017. Meetings with confidential sources, 12 and 13 August 2017. Locals also mentioned Anur Mussa, deputy zone commander, as one of the main spoilers in town.

vacuum filled by armed groups, which has in turn had a negative impact on the capacity of humanitarians to provide support to civilians.[176]

187. Central African returnees from Chad told the Panel that to be able to return to the Central African Republic, they have to bribe Chadian border officials. As a result of the suspension of the activities of many NGOs in Moyenne-Sido and Kabo,[177] the living conditions of returnees and internally displaced persons have deteriorated dramatically (annex 5.15).

Children associated with armed groups and school occupations

188. Violations by various ex-Séléka armed groups of the rights of children to education continue to occur. For example, since mid-September 2017, FPRC elements have occupied Djibo Issi Village school (Ouaka Prefecture).[178] FPRC and MPC elements under the command of MPC local leader "Djibreen" occupied Saragba primary school on the Kamba-Kota axis (Ouham Prefecture) from mid-September to 13 October 2017.[179] After MPC left the school, it was later occupied by anti-balaka elements.[180]

189. On 14 September 2017, UPC released 60 child soldiers in Bambari and on 23 September, FPRC and MPC released 74 children, including 48 girls, in Kaga Bandoro.[181] However, both armed groups, as well as others, continue to use child soldiers in various regions of the country (S/2017/639, annex 8.6) (annex 5.16).

VI. Violence in the north-west: fight for the control of road axes and revenues associated with cattle

A. Transhumance: a lucrative business for armed groups

190. The Ouham-Pendé and Nana-Mambéré Prefectures in the north-west of the Central African Republic are largely dependent on economic exchanges with Cameroon and Chad. A significant amount of goods, including cattle, transits between the three countries. Historically, transhumance has always been a significant source of income and conflict in this area of the country.[182]

191. Since the beginning of the current crisis, clashes between farmers and cattle herders have become increasingly violent every year.[183] The involvement in transhumance and cattle-related activities by armed groups, who have gradually strengthened themselves both in terms of numbers of combatants and weapons, has created a cycle of violence and reprisals. Armed groups in this area cooperate or compete for the control of road axes and, by extension, for a share of all economic activities in the area, including cattle markets (S/2014/762, para. 144). These groups

[176] Panel's visit to Batangafo, Kabo and Moyenne-Sido, 11–14 August 2017. Confidential report, 9 June 2017. Panel of Experts database, January–October 2017.

[177] Confidential reports, 6–9 May 2017. Meeting with humanitarian actors and with local population, Kabo, 12 August 2017.

[178] Confidential reports, 5 and 12 October 2017.

[179] Confidential reports, 13 and 16 October 2017.

[180] Confidential report, 20 October 2017.

[181] Confidential reports, 15, 20 and 25 September 2017.

[182] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Executive summary of the humanitarian response plan" (2017). Available from https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/central-african-republic/document/rca-ocha-executive-summary-hrp-2017.

[183] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Executive summary of the humanitarian response plan" (2017). Available from https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/central-african-republic/document/rca-ocha-executive-summary-hrp-2017.

also generate revenue by providing security to herders in their respective area of control.

192. Currently four armed groups are present in the north-west area: a branch of MPC, led by General Bahar, who is allied with another of the groups, Révolution et justice (RJ), General Sidiki's 3R, and anti-balaka groups under the control of the Bouar-based Ndalé brothers.[184]

193. For these groups, checkpoints represent an important source of revenue.[185] For instance, the owner of 50 head of cattle bought in Mbaiboum (North Province of Cameroon) will have to cross checkpoints held by armed groups and pay between CFAF 800,000 and 1 million ($1,800–$2,000) to reach and sell at the Bouar market (see map in annex 6.1).[186]

B. Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique branch of General Bahar

General Bahar: an independent actor within the Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique

194. The armed group MPC in Ouham-Pendé Prefecture seems to be operating independently without any connection to its hierarchy. General Bahar claims he is not under the command of General Al-Khatim.[187] This suggests that MPC increasingly resembles a network of independent leaders commanding elements in separate regions, with limited contacts with the Bangui-based political bureau of the group. In January 2017, the political and military branches of the group officially split (S/2017/639, para. 59). They eventually reunited without circulating an official statement, although their current interactions remain limited and disagreements persist in terms of their political and operational objectives.[188]

General Bahar's control over strategic areas and axes

195. Through collaboration with RJ (S/2016/1032, paras. 202–204), MPC General Bahar has established his stronghold in the Paoua surroundings since May 2016. He established a cattle market near the city and gained control over the road axis between Paoua and the Chadian border, thereby creating a secure corridor for cattle coming from Chad. General Bahar told the Panel that he now intends to replicate this pattern in Ngoundaye Sub-prefecture (Ouham-Pendé Prefecture).[187]

196. Even though General Bahar claims that his intention is to create a safe zone to allow for the return of refugees, his ultimate objective is in fact to control the Cameroon-Bang-Ndim-Paoua road axis. On 10 July 2017, armed elements under Bahar took Bang, a key location on the transhumance road. As a result, Cameroonian authorities closed the border, cutting access to the market of Mbaiboum, and reopened it only at the end of September. MINUSCA finally took control of Bang from the MPC/RJ alliance on 10 October 2017 (see para. 213).

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[184] Panel's mission to Ouham-Pendé Prefecture, 11–14 August 2017.

[185] Meeting with confidential source, Bocaranga, 12 August 2017. For an estimate of revenues from livestock taxation, see also S/2015/936, paras. 170–172.

[186] Meeting with confidential source, Bocaranga, 12 August 2017. For a broader analysis of checkpoints, see Peer Schouten and Soleil-Parfait Kalessopo, "The politics of pillage: the political economy of roadblocks in the Central African Republic" (International Peace Information Service and Danish Institute for International Studies, forthcoming).

[187] Meeting with General Bahar, Bang, 11 August 2017.

[188] Meeting with Abel Balenguele (MPC), Bangui, 1 October 2017.

197. Only the most influential Chadian cattle owners (so-called *supérieurs*) can send their cattle across the border between Chad and the Central African Republic, which is still officially closed.[189] The fact that General Bahar is hosting and providing security to cattle coming from Chad[187] most likely demonstrates that he has ties with the owners.

C. 3R: a product of the violent character of transhumance

198. 3R is a community-based armed group exclusively comprised of members of the Fulani ethnic group, whose fighters are well equipped with AK-type assault rifles and military uniforms (annex 6.2). The leader of 3R, General Sidiki, claims to have three priorities: (a) protection of Fulanis and the end of discrimination against the community; (b) return of displaced people; and (c) establishment of a national framework for transhumance.[190]

199. Like other groups, 3R is motivated by the control of road axes and collection of associated revenues. The group controls the Yéléwa-Sangéré III and Niem-Besson road axes and has established several checkpoints to charge taxes between Cameroon and the rural livestock communes (*communes d'élevage*) of Niem-Yéléwa.[191]

200. Several sources informed the Panel of possible connections between 3R and UPC and their strengthened cooperation, as well as the possible recruitment of UPC fighters by 3R.[192]

201. 3R is engaged in various political processes in Bangui but faces challenges to attend meetings in the capital because of logistical constraints and unavailability of representatives. On 22 August 2017, anti-balaka fighters reportedly killed Patrice Adama, who was the 3R representative to the Advisory and Monitoring Committee for National Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation in Bangui.[193]

D. Anti-balaka groups and the formation of a criminal network

202. The anti-balaka groups operating close to the Cameroonian border in both Ouham-Pendé and Nana-Mambéré Prefectures are under the authority of the Ndalé brothers (Marcel, Adouma and Ibrahim). The brothers directly control anti-balaka operations in Nana Mambéré Prefecture and have a strong influence over anti-balaka groups based in Bocaranga (Ouham-Pendé Prefecture).

Anti-balaka in Bouar: Ndalé brothers at the head of a criminal organization

203. The Ndalé group is officially part of the Ngaïssona coordination branch, but it appears to be acting independently. Its main source of income is the cattle market in Bouar, taxes from checkpoints and cattle-rustling targeting Fulani herders (annex 6.1).

204. The main objective of the Ndalé brothers is to maintain control over the Bocaranga-Bouar axis where checkpoints have been established to collect taxes and restrict access for Fulanis to Bouar. Between 2015 and 2017, the Ndalé brothers have

[189] Meeting with confidential sources working in the Goré area, Ndjaména, 13 September 2017.
[190] Meeting with General Sidiki, Yelewa, Nana-Mambéré Prefecture, 13 August 2017.
[191] Confidential report, 7 April 2017.
[192] Panel's mission to Nana-Mambéré and Ouham-Pendé Prefectures, 9–16 August 2017.
[193] Confidential report, 30 August 2017.

reportedly stolen an estimated 4,000 head of cattle in the area, giving rise to a series of reprisals by 3R, targeting civilians.[194]

205. The Ndalé brothers benefit from the complicity, and sometimes support, of local authorities, who to date have guaranteed their impunity. Marcel Ndalé escaped from the Ngaragba Prison in 2015 and was never rearrested. National authorities in Bangui also tend to minimize the threat posed by this group, arguing that 3R is the main source of threats to civilians in the area.[195]

206. On 18 September 2017, a FACA platoon was deployed to Bouar to counter the activities of armed groups. A clash on 19 September involving FACA and the Ndalé brothers demonstrates the reluctance of the Ndalé brothers to allow the re-establishment of State authority that would challenge their economic interests.[196]

Anti-balaka groups in Ouham-Pendé Prefecture: allegiance to the Ndalé brothers

207. The anti-balaka groups in Ouham-Pendé Prefecture are poorly organized and equipped mainly with artisanal rifles, but have a strong capacity to mobilize local youth frustrated by the difficulty to access the Cameroonian border controlled by MPC/RJ and 3R.

208. The anti-balaka groups from Ouham-Pendé Prefecture claim to be fighting to restore free access to the Cameroonian border; however, they have mostly engaged in actions targeting 3R positions. This demonstrates their instrumentalization by the Ndalé brothers to fight Sidiki's group. Among the three Ndalé brothers, Ibrahim Ndalé plays the most important role in terms of organization and coordination of operations. He was reportedly present in Bocaranga in early August 2017 with approximately 50 men to offer logistical support to the local anti-balaka groups.[197]

E. Transhumance: an issue to be addressed at several levels

209. The nature of the conflict as described above demonstrates the need to address the transhumance issue at the local, national and regional levels. While agreements need to be concluded among actors in different prefectures to reduce the level of violence, any sustainable solution would require the involvement of regional actors.

210. The transhumance issue has been discussed in regional forums, for instance during the forty-fourth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held from 29 May to 2 June 2017 in Yaoundé. The Panel notes, however, that existing cooperation among Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad on transhumance issues is relatively weak.

F. Humanitarian impact of violence in the north-west

211. The humanitarian situation in the north-west described in the Panel's midterm report (S/2017/639, paras. 119–122) has continued to deteriorate as a result of actions by all the armed groups active in the area (MPC, RJ, anti-balaka and 3R).

[194] Meeting with confidential source, Bangui, 24 September 2017.
[195] Meeting with a government member, Bangui, 2 October 2017. Meeting with Members of Parliament, Bangui, 3 August 2017.
[196] Confidential report, 20 September 2017.
[197] Meeting with confidential sources, Bocaranga, 12 August 2017.

Internally displaced persons

212. Ongoing fighting has provoked the continued displacement of populations. For instance, following a new series of attacks in Niem and Bocaranga by 3R between 29 and 31 August 2017,[198] more than 2,000 civilians were reportedly displaced. The actions of General Bahar's MPC in Bang has forced more than 3,000 new internally displaced persons to seek refuge in the MINUSCA base and a local church since 10 July 2017.[199]

213. During operation "Damakongo" carried out by MINUSCA on 7 October 2017, the Mission dislodged 3R from Bocaranga and established its presence in Niem to counter Sidiki's growing influence in the area, in particular on the Niem-Yongo axis. The operation was also extended to Bang to force Bahar's elements out of the city, and facilitated the return of many civilians. In Bang, for instance, around 1,500 internally displaced persons returned on 13 October 2017.[200]

Attacks against humanitarian actors and occupation of schools

214. On 22 June 2017, MPC under General Bahar detained a truck of the International Organization for Migration near Paoua and requested money for its release.[201]

215. On 24 July 2017, anti-balaka elements, in retaliation for the earlier arrest of one of their fighters by MINUSCA, kidnapped four humanitarian workers from the Danish Refugee Council in Pakale (10 km north of Bocaranga). After negotiations, the humanitarian workers were eventually released, but the fighters continued harassing MINUSCA and humanitarian actors in Bocaranga, demanding the release of their detained colleague.[202] On 23 September and then again on 3 October 2017, NGOs based in Bocaranga temporarily suspended their activities because of constant attacks against them.[203]

216. On 22 September 2017, elements of the MPC/RJ alliance occupied a school in Mann Village (10 km south-west of Ngaoundaye) in Ouham-Pendé Prefecture.[204]

Conflict-related sexual violence

217. During the 3R occupation of Niem in May 2017 and of Bocaranga in September 2017, General Sidiki's elements reportedly raped women and girls.[205] So far, no criminal investigations have been opened into those incidents. The same situation prevails in cases of alleged sexual violence committed by elements of the MPC of General Bahar in the Paoua and Bang areas.[206]

[198] Confidential reports, 29–31 August, 5–19 September and 7 October 2017.
[199] Confidential report, 11 July 2017.
[200] Confidential report, 14 October 2017.
[201] Confidential report, 24 June 2017.
[202] Confidential reports, 25 and 26 July 2017.
[203] Confidential reports, 2–7 October 2017 and Comité de coordination des organisations non-gouvernementales internationales en Centrafrique, press release, "Les ONG humanitaires relocalisent leurs equipes de Bocaranga (RCA) suite à l'exode massif de la population civile" (Bangui, 4 October 2017).
[204] Confidential report, 22 September 2017.
[205] Confidential reports, 9–11 May and 3–9 September 2017.
[206] Confidential reports, 22 August and 13–14 September 2017.

VII. Lack of State authority and involvement of armed groups in trafficking: case of the west of the country

218. As demonstrated by the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan 2017–21,[207] the Government of the Central African Republic has made the restoration of State authority one of its main priorities. Through the redeployment of its administration, the Government hopes, inter alia, to quell trafficking in arms and natural resources and enable the State to increase tax revenues.

219. To date, however, little progress has been made in restoring State authority, especially in the north and east of the country, which includes areas where the State has always exerted very limited control. A pilot project has been initiated in Bambari, which was declared an armed group free zone in February 2017 (S/2017/639, para. 53), and where a number of civil servants are being gradually redeployed. Beyond Bambari, however, ex-Séléka factions continue to prevent the restoration of State authority by establishing parallel administrations (paras. 153–155).

220. Progress is also limited in the west, although the west is an area with no active fighting and no armed groups openly objecting to the restoration of State authority. In this context, taking advantage of the weakness and sometimes the complicity of State authorities, armed groups continue to engage in trafficking, in particular of natural resources, arms and ammunition.

A. Illegal exploitation of natural resources and its impact on security in the west of the country

Gradual increase in official trade of diamonds and gold

221. Since the June 2015 decision of the Kimberley Process to allow for the partial resumption of trade of rough diamonds (S/2016/694, paras. 106–111), five Sub-prefectures (Berberati, Boda, Carnot, Gazi and Nola) have been declared "compliant", enabling diamonds sourced from these areas to be exported. Since then, exports from the Central African Republic have gradually increased. Between 1 January and 31 July 2017, 38,732 carats were exported, which is considerably more than during the entire year of 2016 (11,571 carats), but noticeably less than before the crisis.[208] In 2012, exports of diamonds reached 365,882 carats.

222. A total of 16 buying houses have now received approval from the authorities to trade in rough diamonds and gold. Several have never engaged in a single export of rough diamonds, raising doubts about the nature and transparency of their activities.

223. The official trade in gold is also gradually increasing. From 28.3 kg during the entire year 2016, the quantity of gold exported during the period January-August 2017 reached 83.5 kg.[208]

Gradual improvement of the situation in Kimberley Process "compliant" sub-prefectures

224. Security Council resolution 2339 (2017) requests the Panel to cooperate with the Kimberley Process monitoring team for the Central African Republic and report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) if the resumption of trade is destabilizing the Central African Republic or benefiting armed groups.

[207] Available from https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/car_main_report-a4-english-web.pdf.

[208] Official export data of the Central African Republic (archived at the United Nations).

225. In August 2017, the Panel visited the Sub-prefectures of Berberati and Sosso-Nakombo. In line with the conclusions of its 2016 final and 2017 midterm reports (S/2016/1032, paras. 230–238, and S/2017/639, para. 126), the Panel assesses that the situation in sub-prefectures that have been declared compliant is better than in neighbouring areas, with regard to both the security context and the resumption of economic activities. In particular, the Panel has not observed any evidence of armed group involvement in the diamond trade in zones that are compliant.

226. The positive dynamic noted by the Panel in these areas can be attributed to several factors. First, the relatively stronger presence in these regions[209] of the Central African Republic authorities, and at times of MINUSCA, contribute to a safer security environment. Second, the international supervision operated by the tripartite Kimberley Process monitoring team requires actors in the sector, buying houses in particular, to ensure that their chain of supply does not include individuals related to armed groups.[210] Third, the prospect of exporting diamonds sourced in the area facilitates the gradual return of Muslim collectors and buying houses who play their traditional role of investors, thereby boosting activities in the sector.

Issues related to freedom of movement of Muslim communities

227. While the national authorities still need to make efforts to ensure the full freedom of movement of Muslim communities in the zones declared compliant with the Kimberley Process,[211] the situation is even more worrisome in neighbouring areas. The situation in the compliant zone in Berberati contrasts with those in Amada-Gaza (130 km north-west of Berberati), Gamboula (73 km west of Berberati) and Sosso-Nakombo (57 km south of Berberati). The Panel noted a growing presence of Muslims in Berberati, including some seeking refuge from other areas mentioned above.[212]

228. During the Panel's visit to Sosso-Nakombo, members of the Muslim community reported many cases of harassment and intimidation. Several Muslim representatives indicated that they often need to pay for protection services to move outside the city, in particular to proceed to mining sites.[213] A Muslim merchant indicated to the Panel that he came from Nola escorted by a FACA officer who was paid to provide for the merchant's security. Muslim returnees have reported that, upon return to Sosso, they were expected to report to the authorities or be fined, or worse, arrested. In this context, some are still reluctant to settle in the area permanently and have thus left their families behind in Cameroon.[214]

Involvement of armed groups in mining activities

229. The Panel has collected evidence that outside the compliant zones, diamond-mining and, to a greater extent, gold-mining activities continue to be a significant source of revenue for armed groups in the west. In all cases cited below, they benefited from the complicity of representatives of the authorities acting outside their official capacity.

[209] In early November 2017, MINUSCA forces were deployed in Nola, Carnot and Berberati. Forces were also deployed in Boda at the time of the Panel's visit (June 2017), but these have been withdrawn since then.

[210] Pursuant to the operational framework for resumption of exports of June 2015, the tripartite Kimberley Process monitoring team examines the documentation for all proposed shipments. Available from https://kimberleyprocess.com/en/2015-administrative-decision-car.

[211] Annex 7.1 provides a list of incidents targeting Muslims in Sosso-Nakombo and Berberati.

[212] Meetings with religious leaders and confidential sources, Berberati, 1 and 3 August 2017.

[213] Meetings with members of the Muslim community, religious leaders, a gendarmerie officer and confidential sources, Sosso-Nakombo, 2 August 2017.

[214] Ibid. See also a map of refugee camps in Cameroon at annex 4.8.

Anti-balaka and gold mines in the Ouham Prefecture

230. In its midterm report, the Panel described the situation in the recently discovered gold mine of "Wili" in Koro-Mpoko (S/2017/639, paras. 94–98). In spite of the sensitization efforts of the Government,[215] local authorities still exert little control over the activities on the site, where most of the gold sourced continues to be smuggled to Cameroon. A number of artisanal miners now pay the official licence fee, but most actors on the site continue to act illegally, including some informal buying houses.[216] Elements of the Special Anti-Fraud Unit previously deployed at the Wili site on a temporary basis, are also no longer present. The fact that individuals connected to local and national authorities are themselves participating in gold-trafficking also accounts for the lack of progress in establishing the State's control over activities on this site.

231. Anti-balaka members continue to manage the site and act as irregular security forces (annex 7.2). A larger number of gendarmes and FACA officers are now present at the Wili site but they continue to cooperate with anti-balaka elements, whose role has even been institutionalized as "security auxiliaries".[217]

232. A considerable number of criminal acts (forced and child labour, extrajudicial killings, rapes, etc.), as well as cases of arms trafficking, are regularly reported by local authorities at the site.[218]

233. Other gold-mining sites have been reportedly discovered in the Ouham Prefecture, in particular in Ben-Zembé (50 km north-east of Bossangoa) and Zere (Bouca axis, 25 km east of Bossangoa). Anti-balaka elements from these areas would be involved in ensuring security at the sites.[219]

234. The Bossangoa Sub-prefecture, a traditional anti-balaka stronghold, is therefore becoming a new hub for gold exploitation; hence the need for the authorities to establish a regional office of the mining administration as well as deploy a permanent unit of the Special Anti-Fraud Unit in the area.

Private security involving anti-balaka at gold mining sites in Sosso-Nakombo

235. In Sosso-Nakombo, the Panel observed that a newly created mining cooperative called Camsona was using a private security company called Elite Sécurité RCA, which employs anti-balaka members, in particular the former anti-balaka zone commander Crépin Messamba alias "General Dalé" (annex 7.3). The involvement in diamond activities of General Dalé, a former member of the Presidential guard of François Bozizé, was already cited in previous Panel reports (S/2015/936, para. 223, and S/2016/1032, para. 234). Camsona is headed by the Mayor of Sosso-Nakombo, Eustache-Albert Nakombo, and exploits sites on the Sosso-Nakombo-Berberati and Gamboula-Berberati axes in partnership with foreign investors using mechanical means of production.

236. The activities of the cooperative, which started in November 2016, have triggered tensions with many locals who consider that Camsona operates in breach of

[215] Letter from the Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Resources to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013), 14 September 2017.

[216] Meeting with a collector working in the Bossangoa area, Bangui, 4 September 2017. Meeting with an officer of internal security forces from Bossangoa, Bangui, 10 October 2017.

[217] Meeting with the Member of Parliament of Koro Mpoko, Bangui, 5 October 2017. Meeting with a confidential source, Bangui, 10 October 2017.

[218] Meetings with local authorities and confidential sources, Bossangoa and Koro-Mpoko, 9–11 May 2017.

[219] Meeting with the Member of Parliament of Koro-Mpoko, Bangui, 5 October 2017. Meeting with a confidential source, Bangui, 4 September 2017.

several provisions of the national mining code.[220] Locals complain about the lack of compensation offered to artisanal miners previously working on the sites and the fact that the cooperative is operating outside the perimeter defined by its operating licence. As a result, anti-Camsona demonstrations have taken place, in particular in January-February 2017.[220]

237. Anti-balaka elements of Elite Sécurité RCA illegally possess artisanal weapons and have been used by the president of the Camsona cooperative to defend his interests and silence protesters. For instance, in July 2017 the regional director of the mining administration was prevented from visiting Camsona mining sites by armed elements of this security company.[221]

238. In May 2017, Eustache-Albert Nakombo was suspended from his position of Mayor of Sosso-Nakombo. The former Minister of the Interior and Public Security, Jean-Serge Bokassa, told the Panel that the decision was based on three considerations:[222] Camsona's involvement in trafficking in gold; abuse of authority; and the incompatibility of the position of Mayor with any activities related to mining.[223] His suspension ended in September 2017 and now Nakombo has reassumed the positions of Mayor and President of Camsona. The Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Resources told the Panel that its inspection unit was monitoring the situation.[224]

239. Eustache-Albert Nakombo maintained to the Panel that the cooperative's activities were legal, as were those of the security company he is employing. He also indicated that employing former anti-balaka fighters was a good way of helping them to return to civilian life.[225]

Other cases (Amada-Gaza, Pama, Sibut and Mbrès)

240. During its mission to Berberati, several sources, including anti-balaka leader Kevin Padom, alias "Kempo", told the Panel that anti-balaka elements control access to several gold and diamond sites around Amada-Gaza (Mambéré-Kadéï Prefecture).[226] Anti-balaka units in this area are under the command of Nice Démowance who was previously registered as an artisanal miner in Berberati (S/2016/1032, paras. 228 and 229).

241. In its midterm report, the Panel indicated that freedom of movement of Muslims was constrained in several areas neighbouring the Boda Sub-prefecture (S/2017/639, para. 126). The area of Pama (Ombella-Mpoko Prefecture) is one such area because of the presence of anti-balaka elements, in particular "General Witte", who controls access to mining sites. Officers of the local security forces, as well as of the mining administration, told the Panel that the Member of Parliament from Boda, Maxime Bondjo, was collaborating with anti-balaka elements and purchasing diamonds from the Pama area.[227] In a meeting with the Panel, Maxime Bondjo denied such claims.[228]

[220] Meetings with confidential sources, sub-prefect and acting Mayor of Sosso-Nakombo, 2 August 2017. Meeting with officials from the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Resources, Bangui, 4 August 2017.

[221] Meeting with officer from the regional mining administration, Berberati, 3 August 2017.

[222] Meeting with Jean-Serge Bokassa, Bangui, 2 October 2017.

[223] Article 48 of the mining code states that no representative of the State should exert any activities in the diamond sector.

[224] Meeting with the Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Resources, Bangui, 2 October 2017.

[225] Meeting with Eustache-Albert Nakombo, Bangui, 9 September 2017.

[226] Meeting with Kevin Padom, Berberati, 1 August 2017.

[227] Meeting with security forces, Boda, 10 June 2017. Meeting with an official from the mining administration, Bangui, 2 October 2017.

[228] Meeting with Maxime Bondjo, Bangui, 10 September 2017.

242. Finally, anti-balaka combatants reportedly control access to gold-mining sites around Sibut (Kémo Prefecture) and Mbrès (Nana Grébizi Prefecture).[229]

Involvement of armed groups in mining activities and its impact on security

243. Many anti-balaka combatants involved in mining activities serve their own financial interests without being connected to the broader anti-balaka movement. However, their involvement in mining activities remains a significant source of concern. The revenues generated facilitate the creation of local armed militias which can be used by actors with a broader political agenda, in line with the pattern of mobilization described in the Panel's 2017 midterm report (S/2017/639, paras. 83–86).

244. Moreover, several of the above-mentioned individuals are connected to the broader anti-balaka network. Maxime Mokom and his brother Kevin Padom told the Panel that Nice Démowance and Crépin Messamba, alias "General Dalé", were members of their anti-balaka coordination group.[230] Some anti-balaka active at the Wili mining site are also members of the Ngaïssona coordination group (annex 7.4).

Support from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic to national efforts to tackle illicit exploitation of natural resources

245. Pursuant to paragraph 34 (b) of Security Council resolution 2301 (2016), MINUSCA has supported the organization of a meeting held on 12 August 2017 to further coordination among national actors involved in combating the trafficking of natural resources, including the proposal to establish a multidimensional coordination mechanism gathering all relevant stakeholders (Ministries of Mines, Water and Forest, Agriculture, etc.). Such a mechanism would be tasked to develop a national strategy to fight against the illicit exploitation of natural resources. The Panel welcomes the work of MINUSCA in this regard, as it contributes to strengthening national efforts.

246. The Government has requested MINUSCA to play a more proactive role, including that the Mission be mandated to support the national authorities in regaining control over mining sites.[231]

B. Trafficking in arms, ammunition and narcotics in Bangui and the west of the country

247. Several seizures along the borders of Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo indicate continued trafficking in weapons and ammunition into the Central African Republic in violation of the arms embargo and national laws. This concerns the west of the country, but also Bangui, in spite of the large presence of Central African armed and security forces and MINUSCA in the capital.

248. Some Bangui-based politicians and army officers tend to single out the negative effects of trafficking by ex-Séléka groups, while intentionally underestimating similar activities by anti-balaka.[232] In addition to the complicity of some FACA elements in the trafficking of MACC hunting ammunition and narcotics, this suggests the tacit

[229] Meetings with confidential sources, Bangui, 1 and 4 October 2017.

[230] Meeting with Maxime Mokom, Bangui, 7 August 2017. Meeting with Kevin Padom, Berberati, 1 August 2017.

[231] Statement of President Touadéra at the General Assembly, 22 September 2017.

[232] Confidential meeting, Bangui, 26 September 2017. Meetings with confidential sources, Bangui, 8 and 16 September and 16 and 23 October.

approval of some politicians and army officers of trafficking activities in support of anti-balaka and self-defence groups.

MACC ammunition and artisanal weapons arriving in Bangui and trafficked to the west and the centre of the country

249. Hunting ammunition produced by the company MACC, as well as artisanal hunting rifles (traditionally used by anti-balaka fighters and self-defence groups during attacks) are trafficked via the Democratic Republic of the Congo across the Ubangi River and through Bangui's river port of Ouango (7th district) and Port Beach (1st district) (S/2017/639, paras. 92 and 93). On 11 July 2017, the customs brigade of Port Beach seized 13 boxes containing 500 rounds of MACC ammunition each, i.e. a total of 7,500 rounds.[233] The cargo was trafficked on fishing boats coming from Zongo, Democratic Republic of the Congo (annex 7.5). Various sources, including national security and defence forces, informed the Panel that some FACA elements and members of the Presidential Guard are conspiring with the traffickers.[234]

250. As frequently observed by the Panel, the boxes of ammunition did not contain the necessary information that would facilitate proper tracing, such as a unique batch number and year of manufacture, as required by article 14 of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention). In September, customs agents in Bangui also seized several artisanal hunting rifles on pirogues coming from Zongo, Democratic Republic of the Congo.[235]

Trafficking in ammunition and acquisition of conventional weapons in the west

251. Several seizures and arrests, both in Cameroon and along the Cameroonian border, highlight the continued trafficking in ammunition into the Central African Republic in violation of the arms embargo, despite the measures taken by the Cameroonian authorities which are restricting supplies of hunting ammunition to existing retailers and maintaining the suspension on the licensing of additional retailers in eastern Cameroon (S/2015/936, para. 211).[236]

252. On 7 March 2017, the gendarmerie in Douala, Cameroon, arrested a retired police officer leaving for Garoua Boulaï, Cameroon, in possession of at least 4,500 rounds of hunting ammunition.[237] In May 2017, the Cameroonian authorities informed the Panel that another unspecified lot of hunting ammunition had been trafficked from Cameroon into the Central African Republic, and confirmed that investigations were still ongoing.[238] On 26 October 2017, the police in Beloko (Ouham-Pendé Prefecture) arrested an ammunition trafficker carrying 1,950 rounds of hunting ammunition which had been purchased in Garoua Boulaï from Cameroonian nationals.[239]

253. Anti-balaka groups operating in and around Bouar, Bocaranga, Bossangoa, Bouca and Batangafo are regularly observed carrying conventional military weaponry, mostly AK-type assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades (S/2017/639,

[233] Inspection by the Panel, customs office, Bangui, 21 September 2017.
[234] Meetings with confidential sources, Bangui, 21 September and 12 October 2017.
[235] Meeting with the Director-General of Customs, Bangui, 21 September 2017.
[236] Meeting with an officer of the Territorial Administration, Yaoundé, 26 May 2017.
[237] Meeting with the Permanent Mission of Cameroon, New York, 27 March 2017.
[238] Meeting with an officer of the Territorial Administration, Yaoundé, 26 May 2017.
[239] Phone conversation with the Director General of Police of the Central African Republic, 3 November 2017.

paras. 90 and 91).[240] Anti-balaka fighters, in particular those from Bouar, have reactivated trafficking routes in the north-west, with the border-towns of Garoua Boulaï, Cameroon, and Ngaoundaye as the main entry points.

254. Anti-balaka elements active in Batangafo regularly travel to Bouca and Bossangoa for rearming purposes (map in annex 4.6).[241] On 6 September 2017, the gendarmerie in Boali arrested two anti-balaka elements coming from Bossangoa on their way to Bangui, carrying two AK-type assault rifles, four chargers and ammunition (annex 7.6).[242] Other, albeit few, seizures of weapons and ammunition in the west and some voluntary handovers show that, even if anti-balaka fighters are still mainly equipped with artisanal weapons and using hunting ammunition, some of them are attempting to upgrade their weapons.[243] The Panel continues its investigations to identify the suppliers of conventional weapons to the armed groups operating in the west.

255. Information on trafficking in drugs and narcotics is included in annex 7.5.

VIII. Recommendations

256. The Panel recommends that the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic:

(a) Encourage Member States and the national authorities of the Central African Republic, at the highest level, to ensure that all funds, financial assets and economic resources of listed individuals and entities be frozen without further delay, pursuant to paragraph 12 of resolution 2339 (2017) (see paras. 35–45);

(b) Encourage MINUSCA to collect information on and report to the Committee any acts of incitement to ethnic or religious violence and hatred, including any justifications for such acts, and to identify the perpetrators or instigators and cooperate with national and international authorities in the prosecution of the alleged perpetrators (see paras. 62–73);

(c) Encourage MINUSCA, in cooperation with local authorities, to undertake or support local mediation efforts with a view to reducing violence around transhumance in the Ouham-Pendé and Nana-Mambéré Prefectures (see paras. 190–210);

(d) Encourage regional organizations such as the Economic Community of Central African States and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to further address transhumance as a cross-border economic and regional security issue (see para. 209);

(e) Encourage the authorities of the Central African Republic to take the necessary steps to operationalize the National Commission to Combat the Proliferation and Illegal Movement of Small Arms and Light Weapons (see para. 31);

(f) Encourage neighbouring States, in cooperation with the authorities of the Central African Republic, to take effective action to counter the illicit flow of weapons and ammunition into the Central African Republic, as required by the Kinshasa Convention (see paras. 105–108, 170–180 and 247–255);

[240] Confidential report, 8 September 2017.

[241] Meeting with confidential sources, Batangafo, 11 August 2017.

[242] Meeting with the Territorial Brigade, Boali, 14 October 2017.

[243] Confidential report, 11 October 2017. Handover of weapons and ammunition by 35 anti-balaka elements in Berberati, 11 October 2017.

(g) Encourage neighbouring States to ensure the traceability of the weapons and ammunition produced on their territories, as required by regional and international instruments, in particular article 14, paragraph 9, of the Kinshasa Convention on the marking of ammunition (see para. 250);

(h) Encourage MINUSCA to continue supporting the development and implementation of a nationally owned strategy to address illegal taxation and exploitation of natural resources by armed groups and, in this connection, encourage the Mission to appoint a fully dedicated focal point for natural resources and issues related to the Kimberley Process (S/2015/936, para. 247 (m)) (see para. 245);

(i) Encourage the authorities of the Central African Republic to conduct proper verification of the activities of buying houses which have received a licence to trade rough diamonds and gold but have never engaged in a single export (see para. 222).

257. The Panel recommends that the Security Council include in the next resolution extending the sanctions regime in the Central African Republic designation criteria for individuals and entities inciting ethnic or religious violence and hatred, as well as justifying such acts, and that MINUSCA be tasked to report to the Committee in this regard (see paras. 62–73).

Annexes

Annexes to the final report of the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic extended pursuant to Security Council resolution 2339 (2017)

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Annex 1.1: Map of the Central African Republic.

Annex 1.2: Table of correspondence sent and received by the Panel from 6 March to 7 November 2017.

Country/Entity	Number of letters sent	Information fully supplied	Information partially supplied	No answer/ Information not supplied	Pending
Abi Tchad	1			1	
African Union	2			2	
Angola	1			1	
Axor Gold	1		1		
BPMC	1			1	
Cameroon	4	2	1	1	
CAR	5	1		4	
CAR National Assembly	1		1		
Chad	2	2			
China	2	1		1	
Citibank	1			1	
DRC	1			1	
DU	1	1			
Ecobank	1	1			
Emirates Group	1			1	
Ethiopia	1	1			
Ethiopian Airlines	2	2			
Equatorial Guinea	1			1	
EU	1				1
Fly Dubai	1	1			
France	4	1	3		
ICC	1	1			
India	1			1	
Israel	1	1			
Kenya	3			3	
Kenya Airways	1		1		
Lapara	1	1			
MEA Air Lebanon	1	1			
Minair	2	2			
MoneyGram	1	2			
Orange Money	1			1	
Rwanda	1			1	
South Sudan	1			1	
Switzerland	7	7			

Societe Generale	2		2		
Sovereign Freighters	1			1	
Turkish Airways	1		1		
Western Union	1	1			
UAE	4		4		
UBA	1			1	
Uganda	1			1	
UK	1			1	
USA	1			1	

Annex 2.1: Recruitment of 250 police and 250 gendarmerie officers.

Information extracted from the document, "Liste principale – recruitement 500 FSI", obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 16 October 2017.

Bangui: 148
Basse-Kotto: 16
Haute-Kotto: 1
Haut-Mbomou: 6
Kémo : 15
Lobaye : 29
Mambéré-Kadei : 47
Mbomou : 2
Nana-Grébizi : 14
Nana-Mambéré : 29
Ombella-M'Poko : 52
Ouaka :22
Ouham : 47
Ouham-Pendé : 51
Sangha-Mbaere : 31
Bamingui-Bangoran : 5
Vakaga : 4

Map of the prefectures of the Central African Republic (source: d-maps.com).

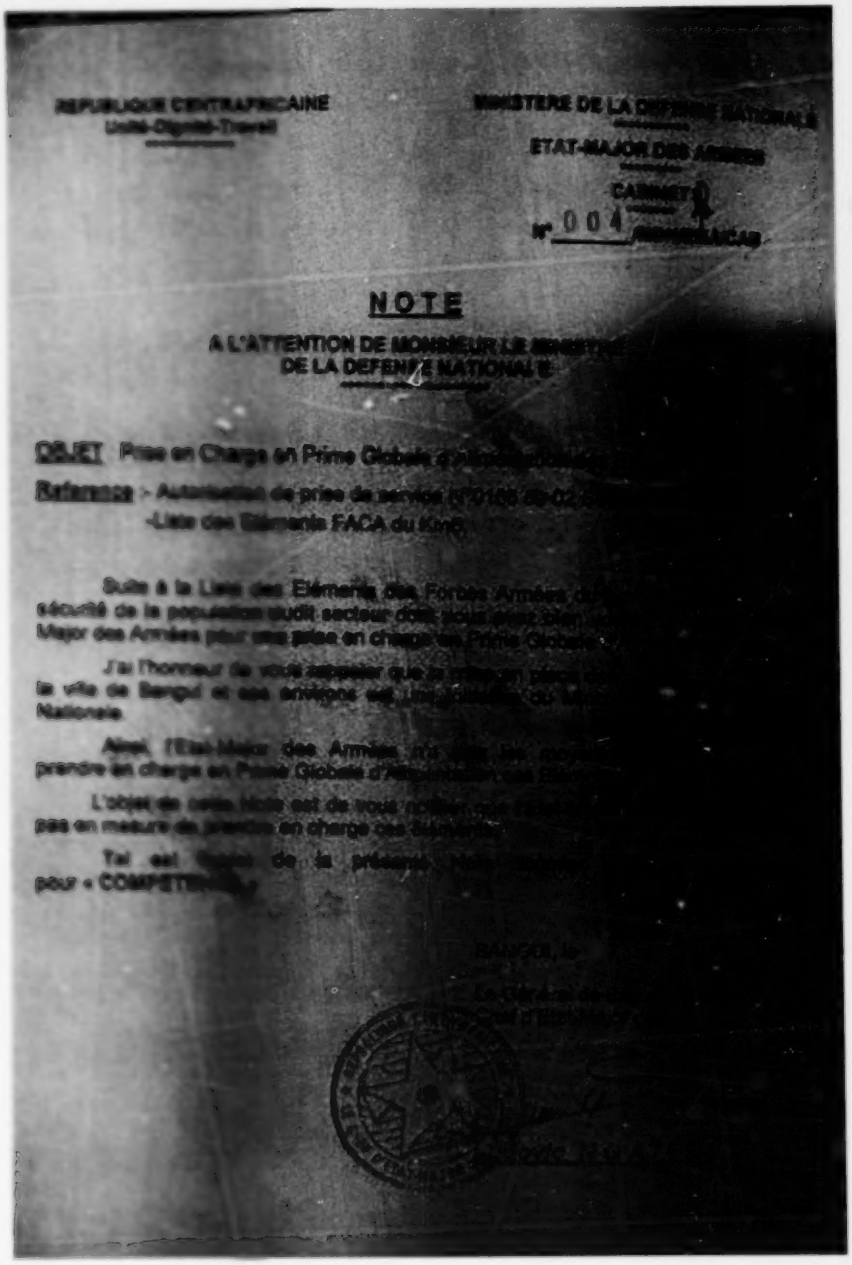
Annex 2.2: Map of the official deployment of FACA outside the Central African Republic's capital

Information collected by the Panel on the basis of information obtained from international forces and national authorities.

Annex 2.3: Letter of the FACA Chief of Staff, General Ludovic Ngaifei, regarding FACA deployed in the 3th district of Bangui ("PK5")

In the letter, General Ngaifei states that he is unable to take care of the FACA deployed in Bangui's PK5 neighbourhood, in Bangui's 3rd district.

Documents obtained by the Panel on 12 October 2017 from Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Defence



REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE
Unité-Dignité-Travail

MINISTERE DE LA DEFENSE NATIONALE

ETAT-MAJOR DES ARMEES

CABINET

N° 004

NOTE

A L'ATTENTION DE MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE
DE LA DEFENSE NATIONALE

OBJET Prise en Charge en Prime Globale d'Alimentation

Référence - Autorisation de prise de service (N°0188 du 02
-Liste des Eléments FACA du 5ème

Suite à la Liste des Eléments des Forces Armées du
sécurité de la population audit secteur dont nous avons bien
Major des Armées pour une prise en charge en Prime Globale

J'ai l'honneur de vous aviser que le
la ville de Bangui et ses environs est
Nationale.

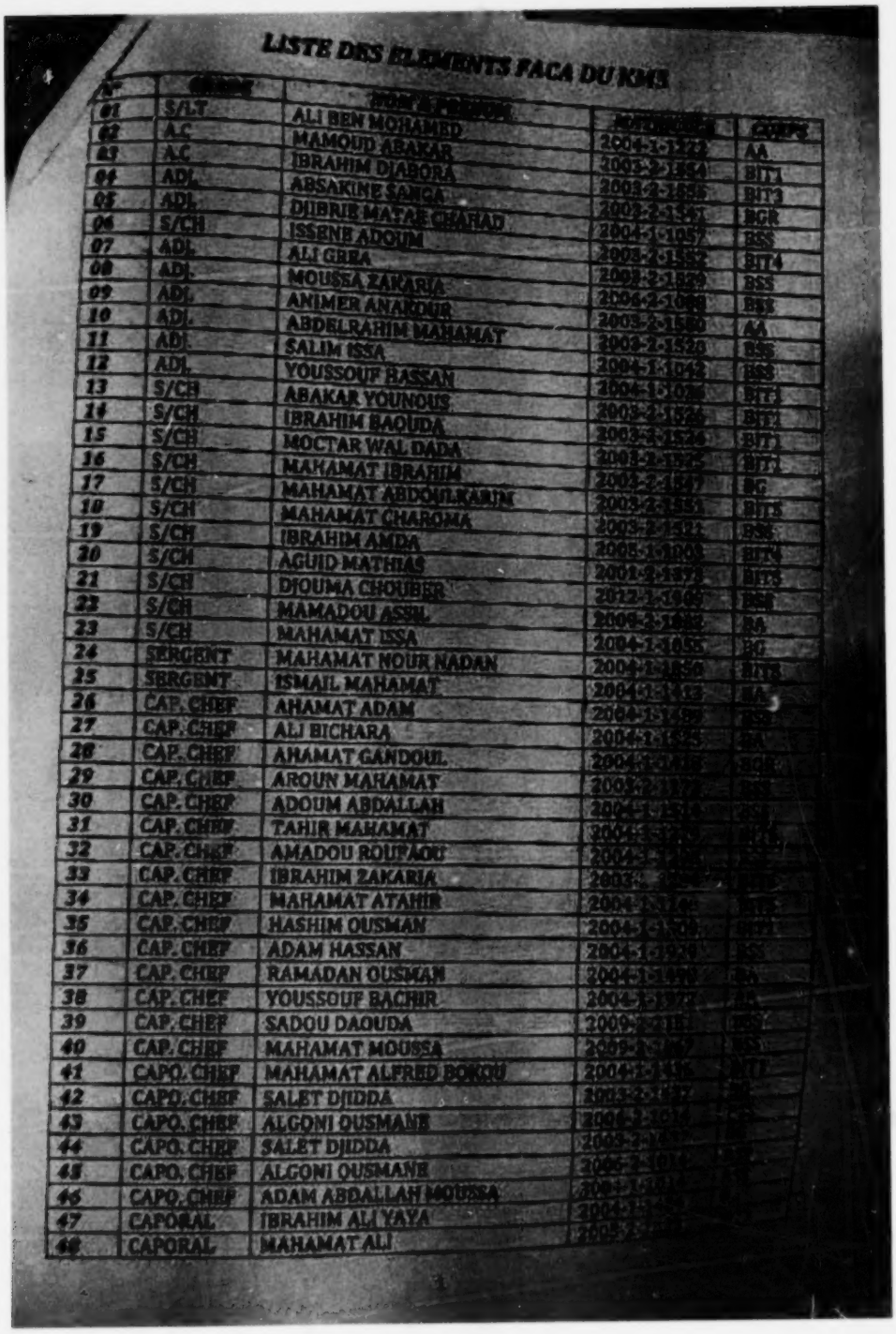
Ainsi, l'Etat-Major des Armées
prendre en charge en Prime Globale d'

L'objet de cette Note est de vous
pas en mesure de prendre en charge ces

Tel est l'objet de la présente
pour « COMPETENT »

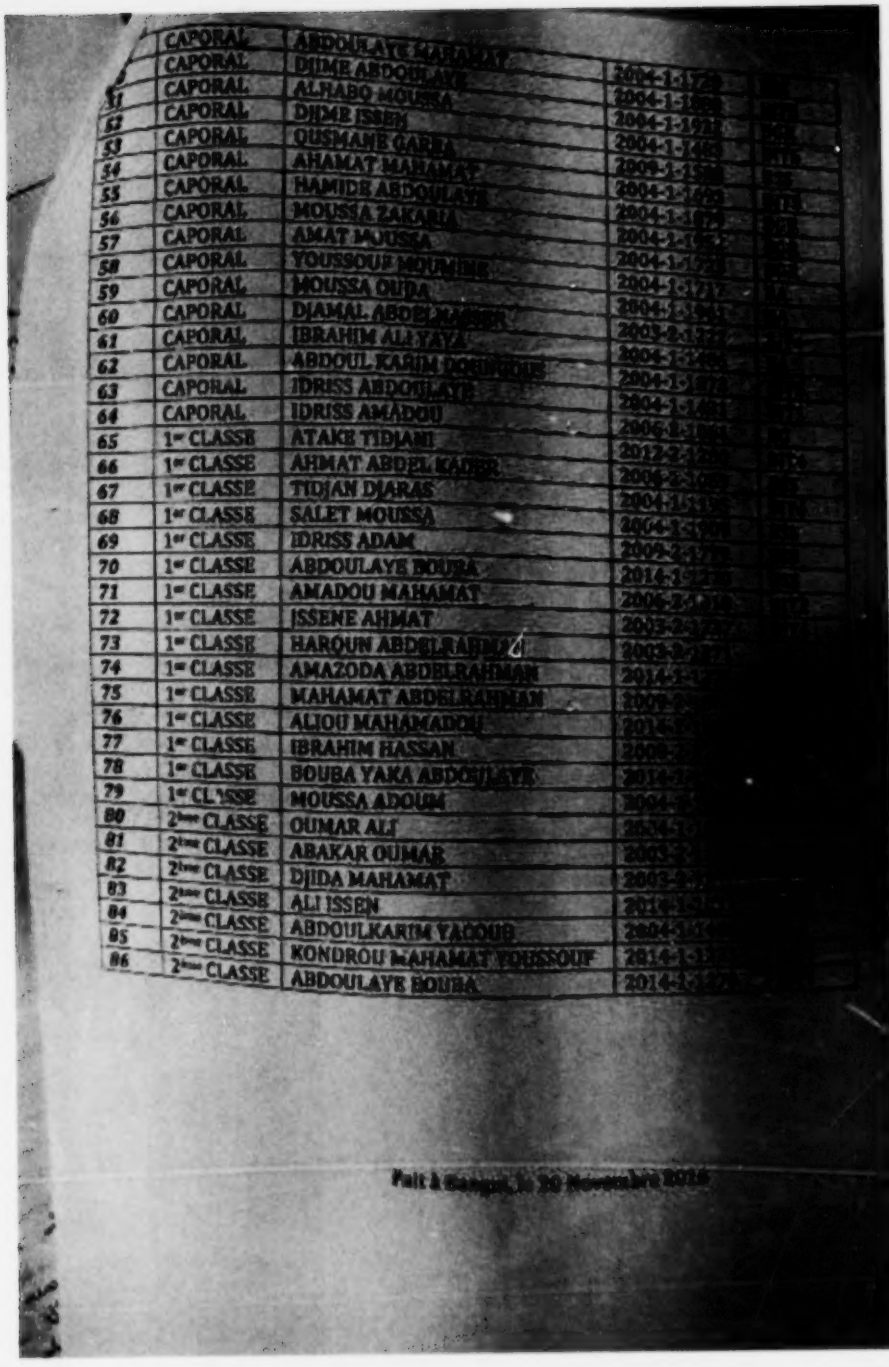
BANGUI, le

List of FACA deployed in Bangui's "PK 5".



LISTE DES ELEMENTS FACA DU KM5

Nr	Grade	Nom & Prénom	Matricule	Corps
01	S/LT	ALI BEN MOHAMED	2004-1-1[illegible]	AA
02	A.C	MAMOUD ABAKAR	2003-2-1854	BIT1
03	A.C	IBRAHIM DJABORA	2003-2-1855	BIT3
04	ADL	ABSAKINE SANGA	2003-2-1856	BGR
05	ADL	DJIBRIB MATAR CHAHAD	2004-1-1057	BSS
06	S/CH	ISSENE ADOUM	2003-2-1857	BIT4
07	ADL	ALI GBRA	2003-2-1858	BSS
08	ADL	MOUSSA ZAKARIA	2004-2-1060	BSS
09	ADL	ANIMER ANADOUR	2003-2-1860	AA
10	ADL	ABDELRAHIM MAHAMAT	2003-2-1520	BSS
11	ADL	SALIM ISSA	2004-1-1042	BSS
12	ADL	YOUSSOUF HASSAN	2004-1-1078	BIT1
13	S/CH	ABAKAR YOUNOUS	2003-2-1526	BIT2
14	S/CH	IBRAHIM BAOUDA	2003-2-1524	BIT3
15	S/CH	MOCTAR WAL DADA	2003-2-1525	BIT4
16	S/CH	MAHAMAT IBRAHIM	2003-2-1847	BG
17	S/CH	MAHAMAT ABDOULKARIM	2003-2-1851	BIT5
18	S/CH	MAHAMAT CHAROMA	2003-2-1521	BSS
19	S/CH	IBRAHIM AMDA	2005-1-1003	BIT4
20	S/CH	AGUID MATHIAS	2001-2-1373	BIT5
21	S/CH	DJOUMA CHOUBER	2012-1-1069	BSS
22	S/CH	MAMADOU ASSIL	2009-2-1882	BA
23	S/CH	MAHAMAT ISSA	2004-1-1055	BG
24	SERGENT	MAHAMAT NOUR NADAN	2004-1-1850	BIT5
25	SERGENT	ISMAIL MAHAMAT	2004-1-1[illegible]	BA
26	CAP. CHEF	AHAMAT ADAM	2004-1-1[illegible]	BSS
27	CAP. CHEF	ALI BICHARA	2004-1-1[illegible]	BA
28	CAP. CHEF	AHAMAT GANDOUL	2004-1-1[illegible]	BGR
29	CAP. CHEF	AROUN MAHAMAT	2003-2-1[illegible]	BSS
30	CAP. CHEF	ADOUM ABDALLAH	2004-1-1[illegible]	BSS
31	CAP. CHEF	TAHIR MAHAMAT	2004-1-1[illegible]	BIT4
32	CAP. CHEF	AMADOU ROUFAOU	2004-1-1[illegible]	BIT5
33	CAP. CHEF	IBRAHIM ZAKARIA	2003-2-1[illegible]	BSS
34	CAP. CHEF	MAHAMAT ATAHIR	2004-1-1[illegible]	BIT5
35	CAP. CHEF	HASHIM OUSMAN	2004-1-1[illegible]	BIT1
36	CAP. CHEF	ADAM HASSAN	2004-1-1[illegible]	BSS
37	CAP. CHEF	RAMADAN OUSMAN	2004-1-1[illegible]	BA
38	CAP. CHEF	YOUSSOUF BACHIR	2004-1-1[illegible]	AA
39	CAP. CHEF	SADOU DAOUDA	2009-2-1[illegible]	BSS
40	CAP. CHEF	MAHAMAT MOUSSA	2009-2-1[illegible]	BSS
41	CAPO. CHEF	MAHAMAT ALFRED BOKOU	2004-1-1[illegible]	BIT
42	CAPO. CHEF	SALET DJIDDA	2003-2-1[illegible]	BG
43	CAPO. CHEF	ALGONI OUSMANE	2004-2-1[illegible]	BG
44	CAPO. CHEF	SALET DJIDDA	2003-2-1[illegible]	BG
45	CAPO. CHEF	ALGONI OUSMANE	2005-2-1[illegible]	BG
46	CAPO. CHEF	ADAM ABDALLAH MOUSSA	2004-1-1[illegible]	BG
47	CAPORAL	IBRAHIM ALI YAYA	2004-1-1[illegible]	BG
48	CAPORAL	MAHAMAT ALI	2005-2-1[illegible]	BG



	CAPORAL	ABDOULAYE MAHAMAT	
	CAPORAL	DJIME ABDOULAYE	2004-1-1728
51	CAPORAL	ALHABO MOUSSA	2004-1-1
52	CAPORAL	DJIME ISSEN	2004-1-1
53	CAPORAL	OUSMANE GAREA	2004-1-1
54	CAPORAL	AHAMAT MAHAMAT	2004-1-1
55	CAPORAL	HAMIDE ABDOULAYE	2004-1-1
56	CAPORAL	MOUSSA ZAKARIA	2004-1-1
57	CAPORAL	AMAT MOUSSA	2004-1-1
58	CAPORAL	YOUSSOUF MOUMINE	2004-1-1
59	CAPORAL	MOUSSA OUDA	2004-1-1
60	CAPORAL	DJAMAL ABDELKADER	2004-1-1
61	CAPORAL	IBRAHIM ALI YAYA	2003-2-1
62	CAPORAL	ABDOUL KARIM DOUMOUR	2004-1-1
63	CAPORAL	IDRISS ABDOULAYE	2004-1-1
64	CAPORAL	IDRISS AMADOU	2004-1-1
65	1er CLASSE	ATAKE TIDJANI	2006-1-1
66	1er CLASSE	AHMAT ABDEL KADER	2012-2-1
67	1er CLASSE	TIDJAN DJARAS	2004-2-1
68	1er CLASSE	SALET MOUSSA	2004-1-1
69	1er CLASSE	IDRISS ADAM	2004-1-1
70	1er CLASSE	ABDOULAYE BOUBA	2004-2-1
71	1er CLASSE	AMADOU MAHAMAT	2014-1-1
72	1er CLASSE	ISSENE AHMAT	2006-2-1
73	1er CLASSE	HAROUN ABDELRAHMAN	2005-2-1
74	1er CLASSE	AMAZODA ABDELRAHMAN	2003-2-1
75	1er CLASSE	MAHAMAT ABDELRAHMAN	2014-1-1
76	1er CLASSE	ALIOU MAHAMADOU	2009-2-1
77	1er CLASSE	IBRAHIM HASSAN	2014-1-1
78	1er CLASSE	BOUBA YAKA ABDOULAYE	2000-2-1
79	1er CLASSE	MOUSSA ADOUM	2014-1-1
80	2ème CLASSE	OUMAR ALI	2004-1-1
81	2ème CLASSE	ABAKAR OUMAR	2004-1-1
82	2ème CLASSE	DJIDA MAHAMAT	2003-2-1
83	2ème CLASSE	ALI ISSEN	2003-2-1
84	2ème CLASSE	ABDOULKARIM YACOUB	2014-1-1
85	2ème CLASSE	KONDROU MAHAMAT YOUSSOUF	2004-1-1
86	2ème CLASSE	ABDOULAYE BOUBA	2014-1-1

Fait à Bangui, le 30 Novembre 2016

Most of these FACAs belong to their respective corps of the national army, but some elements, under the leadership of Mamoud Abakar, did not and are still involved in criminal actions.

For earlier reports and annexes on the FACA elements deployed in Bangui's 3rd district, see the Panel's 2016 final report, S/2016/1032, paras. 83, 97-99 and Annex 39.

Annex 2.4: Repatriation from Cameroon of military equipment belonging to the Central African Republic.

On 4 May 2017, the Sanctions Committee approved, albeit subject to certain conditions, an exemption request from the Republic of Cameroon for the repatriation of 153 weapons, 56,575 rounds of ammunition, 9 vehicles and 1 helicopter belonging to the Central African Republic armed forces (see S/2016/694, para. 113). The handover at the border town of Garoua Boulaï and the further transport of the equipment to Bangui late August 2017, encountered several problems. First, ammunition that was not supposed to be transported because of its unstable condition was handed over and transported, in spite of potential security issues. Secondly, three vehicles belonging to the Presidential Guard, in which this ammunition was loaded, did not follow the MINUSCA escort, as agreed, but left for the local gendarmerie in Bouar. When the escort arrived in Bangui, Camp Kassaï, on 31 August, MINUSCA and the Panel noted that 12 boxes of non-transportable ammunition were missing. After MINUSCA brought the matter to the attention of the national authorities, the 12 boxes finally returned to MINUSCA on 6 September. On 27 October 2017, the Sanctions Committee approved the transfer of the equipment from MINUSCA to the FACA.[1]

[1] Committee document, 27 October 2017.

Annex 2.5: Excerpts of President Faustin-Archange Touadéra's Statement at the United Nations General Assembly, New York, 22 September 2017.

Aujourd'hui, l'activité des groupes armés a réduit plus de la moitié de mes concitoyens à l'indigence complete. C'est ainsi que 2,4 millions de personnes ont besoin d'assistance humanitaire d'urgence. Nous faisons face à 600.000 personnes déplacées internes qui doivent être soutenues et assistées pour regagner leurs foyers pour reprendre leurs activités de production. De plus, la RCA compte 500.000 de ses citoyens réfugies essentiellement dans les pays voisins et nous devons mobiliser tous les moyens pour les rapatrier. La crise humanitaire que connaît la RCA est un facteur qui vient aggraver la complexité de la donne politique. C'est un péril que nous devons conjurer.

- **Distinguées personnalités,**
- **Mesdames, Messieurs,**

Pour les jours et les mois à venir, je voudrais partager avec vous les grands axes de mon action inscrite dans le Cadre d'Engagement Mutuel.

Sur le chapitre **Paix et Sécurité**, à partir du moment où la feuille de route pour la paix et la réconciliation en RCA est mise en œuvre, je veux mobiliser toutes les énergies pour que d'ici à la fin de cette année 2017, nous ayons franchi des pas significatifs en termes de dialogue avec les groupes armés et de mise en œuvre du programme national de DDRR. La fermeté de mon engagement est sans équivoque. **Néanmoins, pendant que le dialogue est en cours, personne n'ignore que l'Etat doit continuer à fonctionner. Et, notamment, à assurer la sécurité de tous les citoyens. Les efforts de redéploiement des FACA et des forces de sécurité intérieures requièrent que les moyens d'action suivent. C'est pourquoi, je voudrais, au nom de peuple centrafricain, inviter de manière solennelle le Conseil de sécurité, organe politique des Nations-Unies à** vocation de veiller sur la paix mondiale, d'user des voies et moyens utiles dont l'allègement des conditions d'équipement de nos Forces de

défense et de sécurité républicaines, pour créer les conditions d'un retour rapide de la paix et de la sécurité en RCA, afin de consolider les acquis démocratiques.

Annex 2.6: Alfred Yékatom's private security company – Koya.

Photograph taken by the Panel in Bimbo (Ombella-Mpoko prefecture) on 8 August 2017.

Photograph taken by the Panel in Pissa (Lobaye prefecture) on 8 August 2017.

Annex 3.1: Final Communiqué of the ministerial meeting on the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, Libreville, 17 July 2017

COMMUNIQUE FINAL DE LA REUNION
MINISTERIELLE DE L'INITIATIVE AFRICAINE POUR
LA PAIX ET LA RECONCILIATION EN RCA
Libreville, République Gabonaise
le 17 Juillet 2017

Cette feuille de route, qui sera soumise incessamment aux parties invitées à la négociation, souligne tout particulièrement le nécessaire respect de l'unité et de l'intégrité de la République centrafricaine, de ses institutions démocratiques et de l'appropriation de son processus politique de paix et de réconciliation.

Les parties ont unanimement exprimé leur ferme engagement et leur solidarité avec le Gouvernement et l'ensemble des acteurs politiques du pays pour le rétablissement d'une paix définitive dans l'inclusion, la réconciliation et la cohésion nationale, de conformément au droit, à la justice et aux valeurs africaines pertinentes.

Les parties ont décidé de mettre en place, sous l'égide de l'UA, un panel de facilitateurs où sont représentées de façon qualifiée toutes les composantes de l'Initiative Africaine. Ce panel est doté d'un secrétariat technique pour l'opérationnalisation de cette feuille de route.

Elles ont lancé un appel à la communauté africaine et internationale pour intensifier leur appui multiforme à la Centrafrique et au plein succès de l'Initiative Africaine pour la paix et la réconciliation en RCA.

Un chronogramme du déroulé de l'initiative sera élaboré dans les meilleurs délais pour encadrer le processus effectif de mise en œuvre de l'initiative.

Fait à Libreville, le 17 juillet 2017.

Annex 3.2: Presidential decree of 31 July 2017 establishing the Follow-up Committee of the Rome Agreement.

DECRET N°

PORTANT CREATION ET FIXANT LES MISSIONS DU COMITE DE SUIVI DE L'ACCORD POLITIQUE DIT « ENTENTE DE SANT' EGIDIO »

LE PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE, CHEF DE L'ETAT

Vu la Constitution de la République Centrafricaine du 30 mars 2016 ;

Vu le Décret n° 16.218 du 30 mars 2016, portant promulgation de la Constitution ;

Vu les recommandations et conclusions pertinentes du Forum de Bangui du 4 au 11 mai 2015 ;

Vu l'Accord Politique pour la Paix en République Centrafricaine, signé à Rome, en Italie, le 19 juin 2017 ;

DECRETE

Art. 1er : Il est créé un Comité de Suivi de l'Accord Politique pour la Paix en République Centrafricaine du 19 juin 2017 dit « Entente de Sant' Egidio ».

Art. 2 : Le Comité de Suivi est un cadre national unique de référence et de suivi de la mise en œuvre des engagements contenus dans l'Accord Politique pour la Paix en République Centrafricaine du 19 juin 2017.

Art. 3 : Le Comité de Suivi de l'Entente de Sant' Egidio est composé ainsi qu'il suit :

Bureau :

- Président : le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, de l'Integration

Africaine et des Centrafricains de l'Etranger.

- 1er Vice-Président : le Représentant des groupes armés signataires de « l'Entente de Sant' Egidio » ;
- 2ème Vice-Président : le Représentant des Partis Politiques ;
- 3ème Vice-Président : le Représentant de l'Assemblée Nationale ;
- Rapporteur : le Point focal de la Communauté Sant' Egidio en RCA.

Membres:

- Le Médiateur de la Communauté Sant' Egidio ;
- Les autres participants aux rencontres de Rome ;
- Le Représentant de la Coordination Nationale DDRRR/RSS/RN, a la Présidence de la République.

Observateurs :

- Le Représentant de la MINUSCA ;
- Le Représentant de l'Union Européenne ;
- Les Représentants de la Communauté internationale.

Art. 4 : Le Secrétariat du Comité de Suivi est assuré par le Point focal de la Communauté Sant' Egidio en RCA.

Art. 5 : Sur proposition du Bureau, le Comité de Suivi approuve par consensus son Règlement Intérieur.

Art. 6 : Le fonctionnement du Comité de Suivi est pris en charge par le Budget national.

Art. 7 : Le présent Décret qui abroge toutes dispositions antérieures contraires et qui prend effet à compter de la date de sa signature, sera enregistré et publié au Journal Officiel.

Fait à Bangui, le

Pr. Faustin Archange TOUADERA

Annex 3.3: Final Communiqué of the first meeting of the Facilitation Panel of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR, Bangui, 12 September 2017

COMMUNIQUE FINAL

DE LA PREMIERE REUNION DU PANEL DES FACILITATEURS DE L'INITIATIVE AFRICAINE POUR LA PAIX ET LA RÉCONCILIATION EN REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

Conformément aux décisions de la réunion ministérielle de l'initiative africaine, tenue à Libreville le 17 juillet 2017 ayant adopté la *Feuille de route de l'initiative africaine pour la paix et la réconciliation en République centrafricaine*, la première réunion du Panel des facilitateurs de l'initiative africaine s'est tenue à Bangui en Centrafrique les 11 et 12 septembre 2017.

Cette réunion avait pour objectif principal le lancement du processus de mise en œuvre de la Feuille de route de l'initiative africaine pour la paix et la réconciliation en RCA.

Les membres du Panel ont été accueillis par le Ministre des Affaires étrangères, et de la coopération internationale de la République centrafricaine, **SE M. Charles DOUBANE**. Au nom de tous les Ministres des pays membres de l'initiative africaine, **SE M. Jean-Claude GAKOSSO**, Ministre des Affaires étrangères, de la coopération et des congolais de l'Etranger de la République du Congo a ouvert les travaux du Panel.

Ont participé à cette réunion: le Professeur **Mohamed El HACEN LEBATT**, Conseiller stratégique principal du Président de la Commission de l'Union Africaine, Coordinateur du Panel, le **Ministre Jean WILLYBIRO SAKO**, point focal de la RCA de l'Initiative Africaine, l'**Ambassadeur Baudouin HAMULI KABARHUZA**, Directeur des Affaires politiques et du Mécanisme d'alerte rapide de l'Afrique centrale de la CEEAC, Représentant de la CEEAC dans le Panel, l'**Ambassadeur Jean Félix MOKIEMO**, Chef de Département Afrique du Ministère des Affaires étrangères, de la coopération et des congolais de l'Etranger de la République du Congo, l'**Ambassadrice Madeleine MEGNIENG OBAME**, Directeur des Affaires africaines au Ministère des Affaires Étrangères du Gabon; M. **Manuel DA ROCHA**, Consul général d'Angola; M. **Abdou HOUNTINTO**, Chargé d'Affaires de l'Ambassade du Tchad; l'**Ambassadeur Moussa B. NEBIE**, Représentant spécial du Président de la Commission de l'UA en RCA, l'**Ambassadeur Adolphe NAHAYO**, représentant du

Secretaire général de la CEEAC en RCA. M. Kenny GLUCK, Representant Special adjoint du Secretaire général des Nations Unies en RCA en tant qu'observateur

Après adoption de l'ordre du jour, les participants ont procédé à un examen des points inscrits à l'ordre du jour sous la modération du Professeur M.E. Hacen LEBATT

Au sujet des conditions de succès de l'Initiative africaine, le panel conscients de la qualité de médiateurs de ses membres, a reconnu, entre autres, que le soutien total du Président de la RCA, des pays limitrophes, de la MINUSCA et des autres partenaires multilatéraux et bilatéraux, est indispensables au succès de leur mission.

S'agissant de l'organisation interne, le Panel a adopté son mode de fonctionnement dont le bureau sera sous la présidence de l'Union africaine, de la CEEAC et du Gouvernement centrafricain, avec le soutien des Nations Unies. Il a adopté le principe de l'ouverture du panel aux pays limitrophes de la RCA qui en feraient la demande, et invite l'Union européenne, l'OIF, l'OCI et la Communauté Sant'Egidio à les accompagner à titre d'observateurs.

Concernant le plan d'action, le Panel des Facilitateurs a adopté leurs actions prioritaires dans un chronogramme assorti d'une prévision budgétaire. A cet effet, il a lancé un appel aux Etats membres du panel et aux partenaires internationaux d'apporter leurs contributions dans les meilleurs délais possibles.

Le Panel a mis en place un Secrétariat technique sous la supervision de la CEEAC qui se chargera, en collaboration avec l'Union africaine et le Gouvernement (Point focal), de finaliser les documents et de mobiliser les moyens logistiques nécessaires au démarrage des contacts et du dialogue envisagé.

Le Panel a unanimement exprimé la ferme détermination à œuvrer pour le succès de cette Initiative en vue de contribuer à la réconciliation et à la cohésion nationale pour le rétablissement de la paix durable en RCA.

Le Panel de facilitateurs constate avec une profonde amertume la poursuite injustifiée des violences contre les populations innocentes dans de nombreuses localités du pays. Cette situation constitue une entrave majeure au dialogue et au processus de paix et de réconciliation dans le pays. Le Panel lance un appel urgent aux groupes armés de cesser toutes les hostilités et de s'engager avec lui, dans l'esprit du dialogue dont le chronogramme, séquences et timing leur seront communiqués dans les meilleurs délais.

Au terme des travaux, le Panel des Facilitateurs a été reçu en audience par le Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat, SEM Faustin Archange TOUADERA pour lui faire part des résultats de leur réunion. Le Panel a remercié le Chef de l'Etat pour le soutien total à la concrétisation de l'Initiative africaine et pour la nomination du Ministre Jean WILLYBIRO SAKO comme Point focal du Gouvernement. Il a exprimé toute sa gratitude au Gouvernement et au peuple centrafricain pour l'accueil chaleureux réservé à tous ses membres.

Fait à Bangui, le 12 septembre 2017

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Annex 4.1: Document signed by the sultan of Bangassou and entitled "Rapport sur la crise sécuritaire et humanitaire dans le Mbomou", 21 June 2017.

Document obtained by the Panel from Maxime Takama on 12 August 2017.

la forêt
. Beaucoup regagnent la RDC, à l'autre côté de la rivière Mbomou

RAPPORT SUR LA CRISE SECURITAIRE ET HUMANITAIRE DANS LE MBOMOU

Des faits troublants

Le Centrafrique, pays failli, est dans le chaos depuis des annees. Les populations dans l'arrière-pays sont condamnées à vivre dans la precarite et l'insécurité. C'est le cas de celles du Mbomou. 300 000 personnes sont prises en otage, plus de cinq années durant, par des groupes armés (LRA à l'Est ; anciens éléments de GOUKOUNI WEDEI, installés de longues dates et Ex SELEKA) à la recherche du contrôle de l'or, du diamant, du betail, de la faune et des porteurs...

300 000 personnes prises en otage

Depuis 2012, 300000 personnes, traquées, harcelées, survivent dans la désespérance, privées d'eau potable, de sommeil, de la nourriture et d'assistance, enfouies dans l'ignorance, dépouillées du droit à la vie 98% de la population (GAMBO, OUANGO, BEMA, ZACKO, BAKOUMA, FODE, RAFAI et Bangassou aujourd'hui), sont dans

Le projet de partition en cours d'exécution

La situation securitaire est très préoccupante Le projet de partition envisagé par l'ex seleka hante,depuis 2013,les esprits et entretient des rumeurs : celle du transfert de Ali DARRASS à Bangassou ; celle d'interminables combats pour le contrôle de 3ria, de Zacto et Bangassou. En mai 2017, l'invasion de Bakouma par des éléments de l'UPC confirme ce projet et surchauffe les esprits.

Les populations victimes des complicités

La partition signifie pour la population du Mbomou, une mise en coupe réglée de la préfecture du mbomouentre des forces rebelles qui se partagent la région et en exploite souverainement les innombrables ressources. L'attaque de Bakouma est assimilée à des complicités: celle des anciens combattants tchadiens de GOUGOUNI WEDAI, devenus commençants, fiers et heureux de se préparer pour accueillir leur compatriote indésirable, Ali DARRASS ; celle des commerçants soudanais ayant des affinités religieuses et linguistiques avec les envahisseurs et les contingents

marocains ; celle de l'autorité préfectorale, prompte à suspecter et à accuser les notables, à prendre des initiatives de désarmement comme pour préparer l'arrivée de DARRASS ; enfin celle des contingents marocains, considérés par l'opinion publique comme des touristes militaires et prédateurs, très proches des communautés musulmanes et dans l'ignorance totale et arrogantes de la réalité des populations locales.

Le sursaut de l'éveil citoyen au niveau de la jeunesse

Face aux attaques des envahisseurs, les jeunes, paysans, artisans miniers, chasseurs, pêcheurs, et chômeurs de toutes les composantes ethniques confondues, chrétiens, musulmans et animistes, par un sursaut patriotique, les armes blanches à la main, contre-attaquent les éléments de l'UPC,et ceux de feu «général» Ahmat ISSA, ancien sous-officier des Forces armées centrafricaines et les LRA en passant. Avec la solidarité intra et inter villageoise et la communion avec les ancêtres naît un puissant mouvement d'auto défense, en l'absence des FACA, dansl'indifférence de MINUSCA, et avec le départ desforces ougandaises et américaines qui plient bagages.

Des soutiens massifs à la population du Mbomou.

Face aux tristes événements du Mbomou, des soutiensémergent de partout. La prise de conscience nationale pour l'autonomie etl'auto prise en charge desdéfisfait surface ainsi que la volonté du surpassement à franchir des étapes nouvelles dans leurvie. Les victimes des dérapages de la MINUSCAreçoivent l'assistance de l'Evêque de Bangassou, du Cardinal, des Pasteurs et des imans, des acteurs de l'assistance humanitaire. Des centrafricains et centrafricaines dans d'autres préfectures marchent et condamnent ces dérapages. Des ressortissants et ressortissantes du Mbomou, avec les élus du peuple, se mobilisent. Les chefs de famille, chefs de clan, chefs de terre, en silence, et dans la clandestinité, agissent, pour la survie de leurs communautés, et une paix durable. Des experts indépendantsdes Nations Unies, en droit de l'homme et en sécurité, et ceux des organisations internationales sur la réhabilitation de la chefferie traditionnelle,les uns après les autres, apportent réconfort moral et conseils pour que la paix, l'amour, et le droit à la vie soient le message essentiel à l'adresse des communautés éprouvées et pour que les résiliences propresimpulsent une dynamique de refondation nationale, comme le levierpour la paix, la sécurité et le bonheur.

Alors que faire ?

1. Déplorer les pertes en vies humaines et condamner les dérapagesinacceptables des opérations de la protection des populations civiles.
2. Préserver la paix, par la promotion de l'éveil civique en donnant la parole au citoyen dans le cadre des sessions de l'arbre à palabre, dans les villages et quartiers autour des notables et des détenteurs du pouvoir et de l'autorité traditionnel
3. Opérationnaliser les FACA avec le concours des citoyens;
4. Impulser des initiatives de la refondation nationale par des options privilégiant le raffermissement de la confiance citoyenne et les principes de l'intégrité, de la transparence, du respect de l'intérêt général, du droit à la vie et du bonheur largement partagé.
5. Bâtir un cadre de dialogue permanent de haut niveau[1] avec les représentants de toutes régions pour suivre, évaluer les résultats de la mise en œuvre des directives du Forum de Bangui de mai 2015 et en tirer les leçons.

Bangui 21 juin 2017

[1] Conseil permanent de haut niveau pour le suivi du Forum

Annex 4.2: "Mémorandum relatif à la généralisation de l'insécurité dans la région 6" of 1 July 2017

Document obtained by the Panel on 2 August 2017 from Dobo Zero Paulin, representative of the "Coordination des Ressortissants de la Region 6".

COORDINATION DES RESSORTISSANTS DE LA REGION N°6

(Basse-kotto, Mbomou, Haut-mbomou)

MEMORANUM RELATIF A LA GENERALISATION DE L'INSECURITE DANS LA REGION N°6

Après le court répit qui a suivi les dernières élections générales, l'on a assisté depuis le mois de novembre dernier à des résurgences de violences créant une généralisation de l'insécurité sur tout le territoire national. C'est ainsi qu'en dépit de la présence de la MINUSCA, les préfectures du Nord-Ouest et du Centre ont été et sont les théâtres de violences aveugles dont les premières victimes sont les populations civiles censées être protégées par cette mission onusienne.

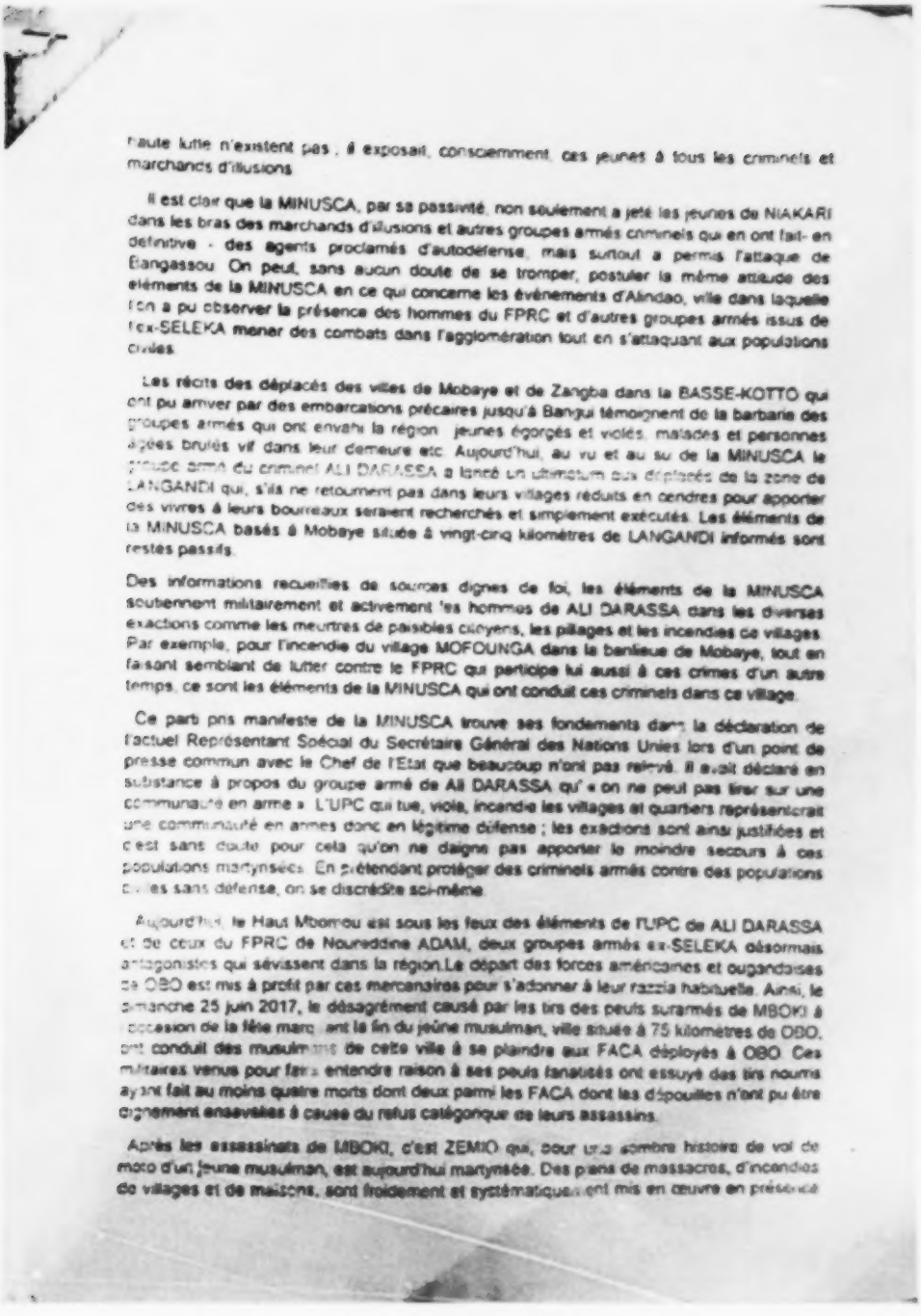
En dépit des recommandations pertinentes du Forum National et des engagements pris par tous les groupes armés, ces derniers continuent à semer la mort et la désolation, certains se sont spécialisés dans la prédation des ressources naturelles de notre pays tandis que d'autres asservissent les populations considérées comme des bêtes de somme.

Depuis près de deux mois aujourd'hui, ce climat de violence a atteint dans la région n°6 constituée des préfectures de la BASSE-KOTTO, du MBOMOU et du HAUT-MBOMOU, un niveau insupportable et destructeur. Ce climat de violences innommables et d'insécurité permanente et généralisée se traduit par des meurtres aveugles et ignobles, des viols, des incendies de villages et de maisons conduisant à des déplacements massifs des populations sous le regard indifférent des éléments de la MINUSCA présents à Bangassou, chef-lieu de la préfecture du MBOMOU, à Mobaye, Chef lieu de la préfecture de la BASSE-KOTTO et à Zémio, localité abritant le contingent de la MINUSCA dans le HAUT-MBOMOU.

Il convient de souligner que les derniers événements font suite à l'exfiltration, par la MINUSCA, du criminel ALI DARASSA de Bambari pour la région n°6 occupée et mise en coupes réglées par les bandes de ce dernier.

La MINUSCA sait pourtant que l'épicentre des violences dans notre pays s'est déplacé de Bangui à Bambari après l'installation des éléments de la SELEKA dans cette ville en 2014 par l'OIM sans concertation aucune avec les forces vives de la Nation. Il fallait donc prévoir le déplacement de l'épicentre des violences dans cette région et prendre les mesures idoines pour faire face à leur éruption. La MINUSCA n'a rien fait par contre d'autres groupes armés, constitués essentiellement de mercenaires comme le FPRC, ont pris prétexte de cette présence pour s'introduire dans la région en vue de poursuivre leur objectif principal qui est la partition de notre pays dont le premier mot de la Devise est « UNITE ».

En ce qui concerne les forces autoproclamées d'autodéfense, le suppléant du Député de Bambassou l a signalé au bureau local de la MINUSCA de Bangassou, deux semaines avant l'attaque de cette ville que sa commune de NIAKARI étaient envahie par des jeunes venus de Bakouma et qu'une attaque sur Bangassou était en préparation. La MINUSCA n'a pas daigné tenir compte de cette information et a juste envoyé une mission à NIAKARI pour proposer à ces jeunes de déposer les armes contre des travaux à haute intensité de main d'œuvre hypothétiques. Pour ce bureau de la MINUSCA, les humiliations et vexations quotidiennement subies, le mise en servage des populations libres de leur liberté acquise de



haute lutte n'existent pas ; il exposait, consciemment, ces jeunes à tous les criminels et marchands d'illusions.

Il est clair que la MINUSCA, par sa passivité, non seulement a jeté les jeunes de NIAKARI dans les bras des marchands d'illusions et autres groupes armés criminels qui en ont fait- en définitive - des agents proclamés d'autodéfense, mais surtout a permis l'attaque de Bangassou. On peut, sans aucun doute de se tromper, postuler la même attitude des éléments de la MINUSCA en ce qui concerne les événements d'Alindao, ville dans laquelle l'on a pu observer la présence des hommes du FPRC et d'autres groupes armés issus de l'ex-SELEKA mener des combats dans l'agglomération tout en s'attaquant aux populations civiles.

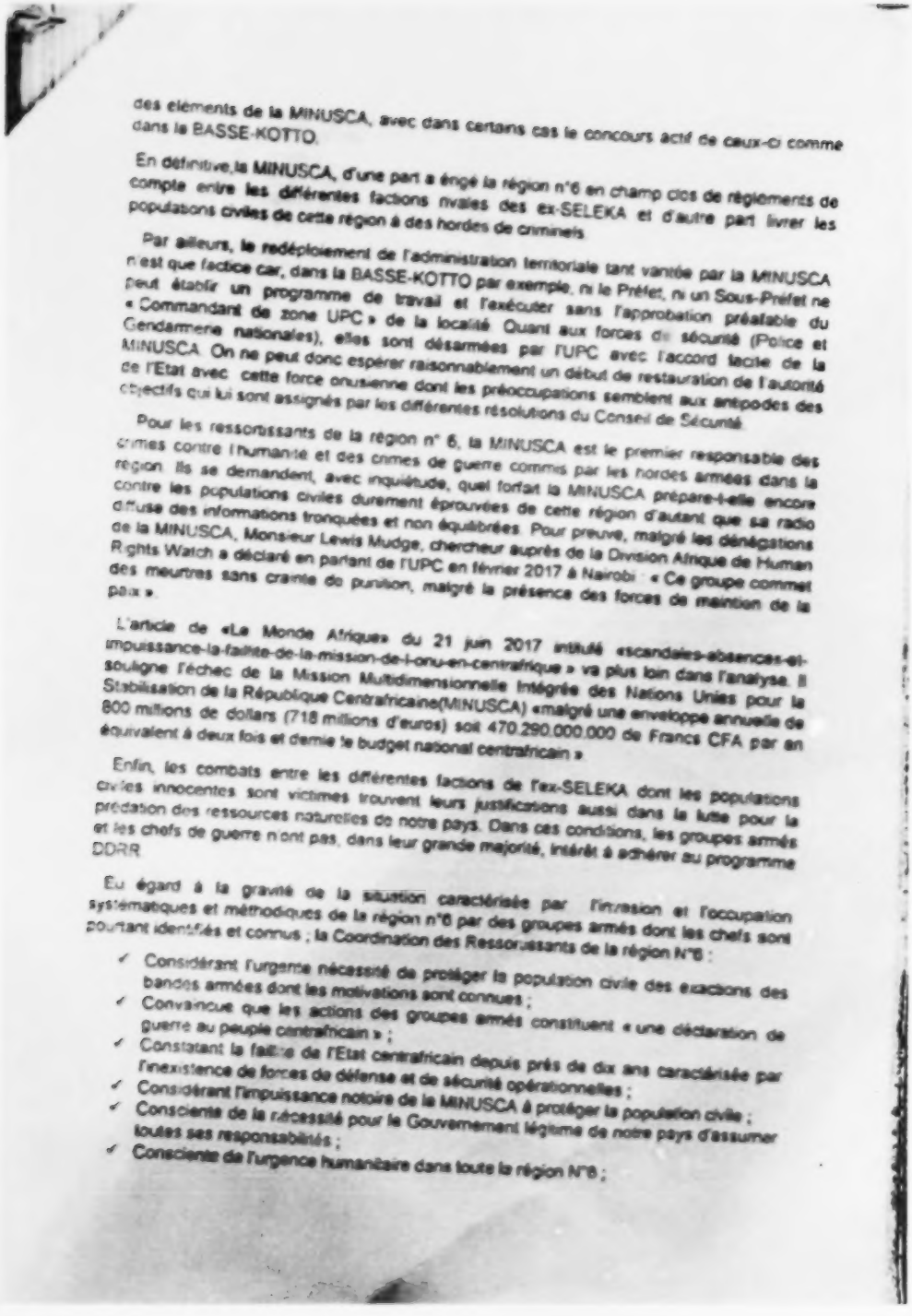
Les récits des déplacés des villes de Mobaye et de Zangba dans la BASSE-KOTTO qui ont pu arriver par des embarcations précaires jusqu'à Bangui témoignent de la barbarie des groupes armés qui ont envahi la région : jeunes égorgés et violés, malades et personnes âgées brulés vif dans leur demeure etc. Aujourd'hui, au vu et au su de la MINUSCA le groupe armé du criminel ALI DARASSA a lancé un ultimatum aux déplacés de la zone de LANGANDI qui, s'ils ne retournent pas dans leurs villages réduits en cendres pour apporter des vivres à leurs bourreaux seraient recherchés et simplement exécutés. Les éléments de la MINUSCA basés à Mobaye située à vingt-cinq kilomètres de LANGANDI informés sont restés passifs.

Des informations recueillies de sources dignes de foi, les éléments de la MINUSCA soutiennent militairement et activement les hommes de ALI DARASSA dans les diverses exactions comme les meurtres de passibles citoyens, les pillages et les incendies de villages. Par exemple, pour l'incendie du village MOFOUNGA dans la banlieue de Mobaye, tout en faisant semblant de lutter contre le FPRC qui participe lui aussi à ces crimes d'un autre temps, ce sont les éléments de la MINUSCA qui ont conduit ces criminels dans ce village.

Ce parti pris manifeste de la MINUSCA trouve ses fondements dans la déclaration de l'actuel Représentant Spécial du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies lors d'un point de presse commun avec le Chef de l'Etat que beaucoup n'ont pas relevé. Il avait déclaré en substance à propos du groupe armé de Ali DARASSA qu' « on ne peut pas tirer sur une communauté en arme ». L'UPC qui tue, viole, incendie les villages et quartiers représenterait une communauté en armes donc en légitime défense ; les exactions sont ainsi justifiées et c'est sans doute pour cela qu'on ne daigne pas apporter le moindre secours à ces populations martyrisées. En prétendant protéger des criminels armés contre des populations civiles sans défense, on se discrédite soi-même.

Aujourd'hui, le Haut Mbomou est sous les feux des éléments de l'UPC de ALI DARASSA et de ceux du FPRC de Noureddine ADAM, deux groupes armés ex-SELEKA désormais antagonistes qui sévissent dans la région.Le départ des forces américaines et ougandaises de OBO est mis à profit par ces mercenaires pour s'adonner à leur razzia habituelle. Ainsi, le dimanche 25 juin 2017, le désagrément causé par les tirs des peuls surarmés de MBOKI à l'occasion de la fête marquant la fin du jeûne musulman, ville située à 75 kilomètres de OBO, ont conduit des musulmans de cette ville à se plaindre aux FACA déployés à OBO. Ces militaires venus pour faire entendre raison à ses peuls fanatisés ont essuyé des tirs nourris ayant fait au moins quatre morts dont deux parmi les FACA dont les dépouilles n'ont pu être dignement enseveles à cause du refus catégorique de leurs assassins.

Après les assassinats de MBOKI, c'est ZEMIO qui, pour une sombre histoire de vol de moto d'un jeune musulman, est aujourd'hui martyrisée. Des plans de massacres, d'incendies de villages et de maisons, sont froidement et systématiquement mis en œuvre en présence



des éléments de la MINUSCA, avec dans certains cas le concours actif de ceux-ci comme dans la BASSE-KOTTO.

En définitive,la MINUSCA, d'une part a érigé la région n°6 en champ clos de règlements de compte entre les différentes factions rivales des ex-SELEKA et d'autre part livrer les populations civiles de cette région à des hordes de criminels.

Par ailleurs, le redéploiement de l'administration territoriale tant vantée par la MINUSCA n'est que factice car, dans la BASSE-KOTTO par exemple, ni le Préfet, ni un Sous-Préfet ne peut établir un programme de travail et l'exécuter sans l'approbation préalable du « Commandant de zone UPC » de la localité. Quant aux forces de sécurité (Police et Gendarmerie nationales), elles sont désarmées par l'UPC avec l'accord tacite de la MINUSCA. On ne peut donc espérer raisonnablement un début de restauration de l'autorité de l'Etat avec cette force onusienne dont les préoccupations semblent aux antipodes des objectifs qui lui sont assignés par les différentes résolutions du Conseil de Sécurité.

Pour les ressortissants de la région n° 6, la MINUSCA est le premier responsable des crimes contre l'humanité et des crimes de guerre commis par les hordes armées dans la région. Ils se demandent, avec inquiétude, quel forfait la MINUSCA prépare-t-elle encore contre les populations civiles durement éprouvées de cette région d'autant que sa radio diffuse des informations tronquées et non équilibrées. Pour preuve, malgré les dénégations de la MINUSCA, Monsieur Lewis Mudge, chercheur auprès de la Division Afrique de Human Rights Watch a déclaré en parlant de l'UPC en février 2017 à Nairobi : « Ce groupe commet des meurtres sans crainte de punition, malgré la présence des forces de maintien de la paix ».

L'article de «Le Monde Afrique» du 21 juin 2017 intitulé «scandales-absences-et-impuissance-la-faillite-de-la-mission-de-l-onu-en-centrafrique » va plus loin dans l'analyse. Il souligne l'échec de la Mission Multidimensionnelle Intégrée des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation de la République Centrafricaine(MINUSCA) «malgré une enveloppe annuelle de 800 millions de dollars (718 millions d'euros) soit 470.290.000.000 de Francs CFA par an équivalent à deux fois et demie le budget national centrafricain ».

Enfin, les combats entre les différentes factions de l'ex-SELEKA dont les populations civiles innocentes sont victimes trouvent leurs justifications aussi dans la lutte pour la prédation des ressources naturelles de notre pays. Dans ces conditions, les groupes armés et les chefs de guerre n'ont pas, dans leur grande majorité, intérêt à adhérer au programme DDRR.

Eu égard à la gravité de la situation caractérisée par l'invasion et l'occupation systématiques et méthodiques de la région n°6 par des groupes armés dont les chefs sont pourtant identifiés et connus ; la Coordination des Ressortissants de la région N°6 :

- ✓ Considérant l'urgente nécessité de protéger la population civile des exactions des bandes armées dont les motivations sont connues ;
- ✓ Convaincue que les actions des groupes armés constituent « une déclaration de guerre au peuple centrafricain » ;
- ✓ Constatant la faillite de l'Etat centrafricain depuis près de dix ans caractérisée par l'inexistence de forces de défense et de sécurité opérationnelles ;
- ✓ Considérant l'impuissance notoire de la MINUSCA à protéger la population civile ;
- ✓ Consciente de la nécessité pour le Gouvernement légitime de notre pays d'assumer toutes ses responsabilités ;
- ✓ Consciente de l'urgence humanitaire dans toute la région N°6 ;

- ✓ Soucieuse de contribuer à la restauration de l'autorité de l'Etat sur toute l'étendue du territoire national ;
- ✓ Consciente de l'impérieuse nécessité de préserver l'unité nationale d'une part et l'intégrité territoriale de notre pays d'autre part par le dialogue et la concertation ;
- ✓ Convaincue que le retour à la paix et à la sécurité véritables dans notre pays passe par la justice ;
- ✓ Constatant le retrait des forces américaines et ougandaises du Haut-Mbomou,
- ✓ Convaincue que les crimes odieux perpétrés par les groupes armés dans la région N°6 étaient prévisibles du fait de la délocalisation de Ali DARASSA dans la région N°6 et pouvaient etre évités ;

- ➢ Remercie la communauté internationale pour ses actions multiformes en faveur des populations centrafricaines meurtries ;
- ➢ Exhorte l'Union Européenne à accélérer les actions de formation des forces de défense et de sécurité ainsi que leur redéploiement ;
- ➢ Exige du Gouvernement de revoir avec les Nations Unies les modalités de travail de la MINUSCA en mettant un accent particulier sur les patrouilles mixtes des forces nationales et onusiennes ;
- ➢ Demande au Gouvernement d'user de sa légitimité pour créer sans délai les conditions du rétablissement de l'autorité de l'Etat et de la sécurité sur toute l'étendue du territoire national ;
- ➢ Exhorte le Représentant Spécial du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies de prendre acte de l'impuissance de la MINUSCA et de demander au Conseil de Sécurité d'appuyer le Gouvernement Centrafricain dans ses efforts de réarmement des forces de défense et de sécurité ;
- ➢ Demande la mise en place d'une équipe mixte Gouvernement-Système des Nations Unies afin d'évaluer les besoins urgents de cette région, notamment ceux des personnes vulnérables, pour apporter des solutions adaptées ;
- ➢ Exige l'arrestation immédiate des criminels ALI DARASSA, Nourredine ADAM, Abdoulaye HISSEN,SIDIKI ainsi que de tous les autres criminels de guerre issus des Ex-SELEKA et des forces dites d'autodéfense dont la MINUSCA connait les repères et les déplacements, et leur traduction en justice ;
- ➢ Exige de la MINUSCA la neutralisation dans un bref délai de tous les groupes armés non conventionnels présents dans la région ;
- ➢ Demande à la MINUSCA de procéder sans délai à la relève de ses éléments qui ont perdu toute crédibilité dans cette région si elle veut appliquer son mandat ;
- ➢ Exige le démantèlement immédiat de toutes les barrières illégales ;
- ➢ Demande au Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies la levée sans restriction de l'embargo sur les armes en ce qui concerne exclusivement les Forces de défense et de sécurité centrafricaines ;
- ➢ Demande au Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies que soit diligentée une enquête internationale indépendante pour établir les responsabilités sur les récents événements et en tirer toutes les conséquences.

Fait à Bangui, le 1er juillet 2017

LA COORDINATION DES RESSORTISSANTS DE LA REGION N°6

P.O le 1er Vice-Pdt. P.J. SECRE

Annex 4.3: Document featuring a list of IDPs to be expelled from the Bangassou camp

The document was prepared by the Bangassou IDP camp manager, Abbé Guy Florentin (CARITAS), and subsequently obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 24 September 2017.

CARITAS DIOCESAINE DE BANGASSOU

Liste des IDPs proposés à extraire du site du Petit Séminaire

- 1. Hamat Sharoou(le cerveau)
- Dido Assan(chef de la bande num.1)
- Tomy Ibrahim (chef de la bande num.2)
- Ali Idriss Kponga (Leader IDPs)
- Djamaldine (Leader IDPs)
- Zacharia,
- Izadine,
- Kamis,
- Salé,
- Mahamat Alamine,
- Abakar
- Oumarou alias CFAO,
- Bangaya
- Youssouf,
- Akonie
- Hassan,
- Oumar CFAO,
- Abba CFAO et
- 19. Abakar Massa KONZO

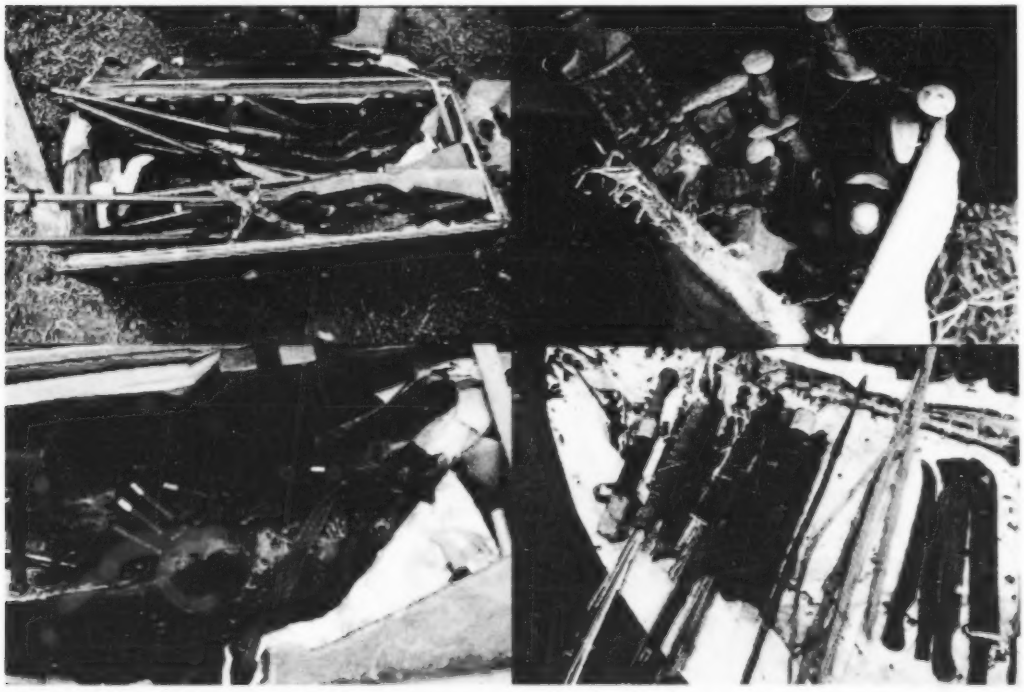
Pour la Gestion du site

Abbé Guy-Florentin, SED

Annex 4.4: Anti-balaka fighters and self-defence groups equipped with artisanal weapons, knives, machetes, bows and arrows.

Fighters in Gambo (Mbomou prefecture) on 16 August 2017. Photograph (Alexis Huguet/AFP) available at http://www.francetvinfo.fr/monde/centrafrique/human-rights-watch-denonce-le-recours-aux-esclaves-sexuelles-dans-le-conflit-centrafricain_2404060.html

Hunting rifles and ammunition, knives, bows and arrows seized by MINUSCA in Bangassou and Bambari and inspected by the Panel in June and September 2017.



Annex 4.5: Conventional weapons used by the leaders of anti-balaka and self-defence groups

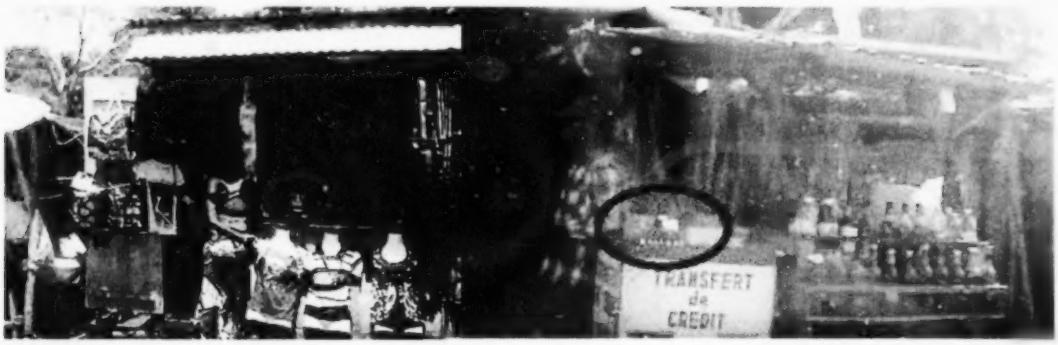
Conventional weapons are primarily used by the leaders of anti-balata and self-defence groups. Other fighters remain equipped with hunting rifles, knifes, machetes and bows. In Bangassou, only the leader Berebere had an automatic pistol. [2] On 11 August 2017 in Béma the Panel observed, that only anti-balaka leaders Pino Pino and Romaric and two other fighters carried AK-type assault rifles.[3] The other approximately 300 fighters were equipped with artisanal rifles and machetes.[4] After the attack on Bangassou on 13 May 2017, the fighters were seen with uniforms, red berets and radios. Several AK-type assault rifles were retrieved from the bodies of UPC fighters.

Photographs obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 15 September 2017.

Annex 4.6: Maps of the arms-trafficking routes and entry points

Annex 4.7: Hunting ammunition produced by Manufacture de cartouches congolaise (MACC) in Pointe Noire, Republic of the Congo, and sold in markets in the market of the Bria IDP camp.

Photographs taken by the Panel in Bria on 8 October 2017.



Annex 4.8: Data on Central African IDPs and refugees

Source : Commission de Mouvement des Populations

Increase in 2017 of the number of IDPs (as of 30 September 2017).

IDPs by prefecture, data available as of 30 September 2017 and available at http://us8.campaign-archive.com/?u=9e62930dcaf29260cf72aa7f9&id=2273f2cd05 Accessed on 30 October 2017.

Prefecture	IDP sur sites	IDP en Famille d'Accueil	Total
OUAKA	37240	54607	91,847
OUHAM	46958	21456	68,414
BANGUI	0	56448	56,448
OMBELLA MPOKO	0	17500	17,500
LOBAYE	789	31691	32,480
NANA GRIBIZI	20424	25175	45,599
MAMBERE KADEI	54	24673	24,727
NANA MAMBERE	0	18523	18,523
HAUT MBOMOU	9599	11665	26,014
HAUTE KOTTO	30284	38335	68,619
MBOMOU	1524	31617	33,141
BASSE KOTTO	25492	32628	58,120
KEMO	0	4276	4,276
OUHAM PENDE	807	47665	48,472
BAMINGUI BANGORAN	174	6263	6,437
SANGHA MBAERE	0	2857	2,857
VAKAGA	0	1526	1,526
Grand Total	**173,345**	**426,905**	**600,250**

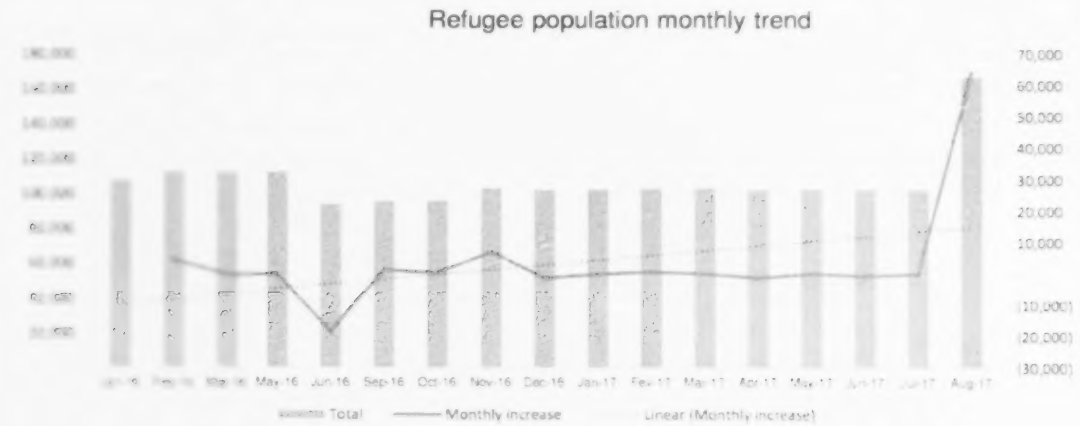
Map depicting the latest movements of IDPs, data as of 30 September 2017 and available at http://us8.campaign-archive.com/?u=9e62930deaf29260ef72aa7f9&id=2273f2ed05. Accessed on 30 October 2017.

Refugees

Total numbers of refugees from the Central African Republic (OCHA). Data available at https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA-CAR-Overview-CRI2017%20-%20310ct2017.pdf. Accessed 30 October 2017.

Country	*Number of CAR refugees*
Cameroon	*233,000*
DRC	*167,000*
Chad	*74,000*
Congo	*30,000*
Total	*504,000*

Total number of Central African Republic refugees in the DRC (UNHCR). Data available at https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/democratic-republic-congo-monthly-statistics-central-african-1. Accessed on 30 October 2017.

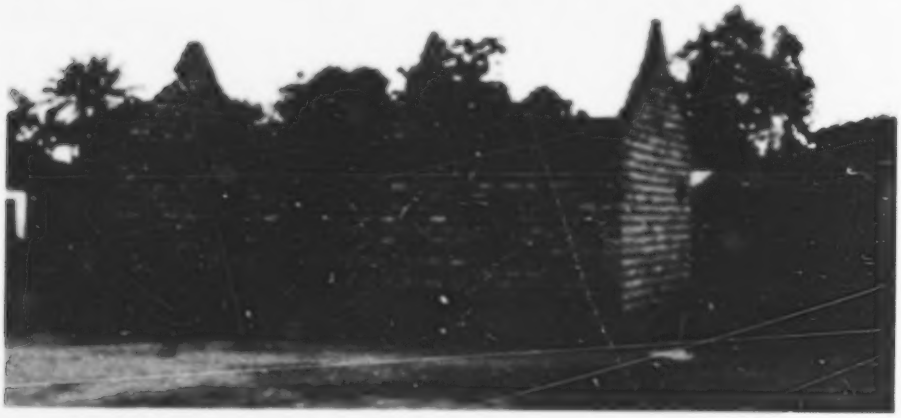


Distribution of Central African refugees in the DRC (UNHCR). Data available at https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/56890. Accessed on 30 October 2017.

Humanitarian impact of the conflict in CAR: displacement of people: CAR refugees (in Cameroon and DRC) and IDPs (UNHCR). Data available at https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/58900. Accessed on 30 October 2017.

Annex 4.9: Destruction of households, United Nations offices and NGO premises in Zémio.

Photographs taken by the Panel, Zémio, 21 – 22 September 2017.



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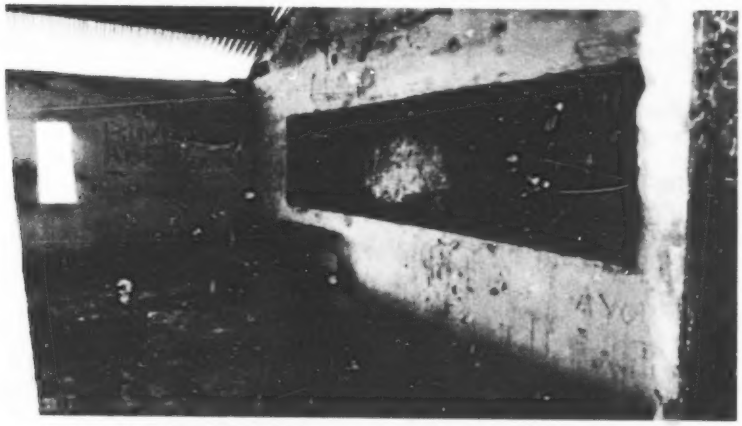
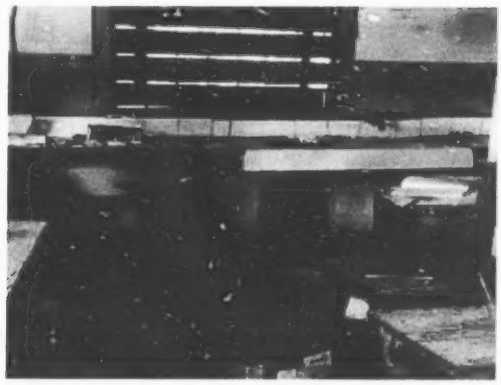


Destruction of United Nations and NGO offices, Zemio.

Photographs taken by the Panel, Zémio, 21 – 22 September 2017.

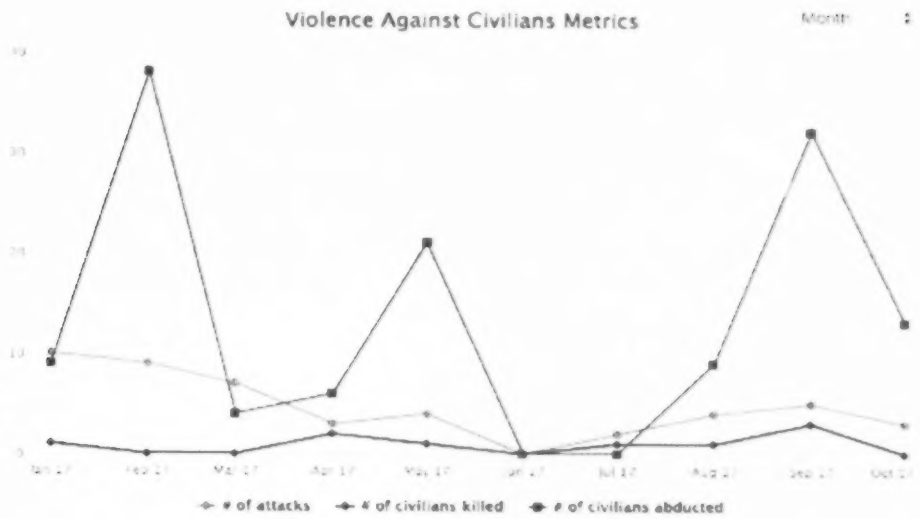
UNHCR and Coopi's warehouse.

UNHCR and JUPEDEC health centre.



Annex 4.10: Humanitarian impact of LRA attacks during 2017.

Source: "Invisible Children LRA Crisis Tracker"



Map of LRA attacks in the Central African Republic, "Invisible Children LRA Crisis Tracker" as of 26 October 2017.

Annex 4.11: Total number of deaths of MINUSCA peacekeepers.

Source: Panel of Experts database and data of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

2014	1
2015	10
2016	2
2017	12
Total	25

Annex 4.12: Incidents against humanitarian NGOs.

Source: INSO.

NGO incidents in the Central African Republic. Total numbers as of September 2017. Data available at http://www.ngosafety.org/keydata-dashboard/. Accessed on 30 October 2017.

265	**19**
13	**3**

NGO incidents in the Central African Republic. Monthly incidents data as of September 2017. Data available at http://www.ngosafety.org/keydata-dashboard/. Accessed on 30 October 2017.

TOTAL NGO INCIDENT

Annex 4.13: Testimonies of victims of sexual crimes.

Summaries of testimonies of victims of sexual violence interviewed by the Panel, Bangui, 25 September 2017.

The Panel had the opportunity to interview different victims from the areas of Alindao and Mobaye (Basse-Kotto)[5]. In mid-May 2017, UPC and self-defence groups clashed as they were trying to seize control of different locations in the Basse-Kotto prefecture. Civilians are frequently caught in the middle of the fighting and perceived as sympathizers if not supporters of one side or another. The perception is usually based on ethnic and/or religious grounds.

One victim indicated that between 18 and 21 May 2017, when UPC took control of Mobaye, some UPC elements went to his house and demanded money. He indicated that he had nothing as other self-defence groups had recently robbed him of all his belongings. UPC told him that he had probably given his money to support the self-defence group. Since he had no money, he was taken to their base where he was raped several times over a period of four days.

Another victim reported that on 15 May 2017, UPC attacked the village of Tombo (15 km south of Alindao). He and his family were not able to flee the village. UPC elements demanded money and food, but since he was unable to provide neither, they took his wife and gang-raped her. They later fled towards the Democratic Republic of the Congo where his wife decided to stay.[6]

The Panel was also informed that on 21 May 2017, one individual who went to work in the field outside the city of Mobaye was captured by members of a self-defence groupHe was accused of being a spy and then taken to their base in the forest where he was tied to a tree and raped by different individuals during a period of three days. Although he did not remember the names of his aggressors, he told the Panel that he was held by elements of unit called "Bravo".[7]

One resident of Zamba 1 (53 km east of Mobaye) indicated that on 1 June 2017, elements of a self-defence group attacked his village. He was taken, along with two women and another man, to a base outside the city. All were detained for almost a week and were beaten and raped several times. He identified his aggressors as Angimba Martin, Bonanga Bernard and Zack Agath. He said that that Martin and Berbard were also inhabitants of Zamba and that he was raped because in the past he had refused to join them.[8]

Another victim told the Panel that on 28 May 2017, a UPC unit under the command of Atai Mamat entered the village of Ngbougou. The UPC considered all the males in town as anti-balaka and therefore said that they deserved to be punished. All men were beaten,

[5] Meetings with victims, Bangui, 25 September 2017.
[6] Meeting with victim, Bangui, 25 September 2017.
[7] Meeting with victim, Bangui, 25 September 2017.
[8] Meeting with victim, Bangui, 25 September 2017.

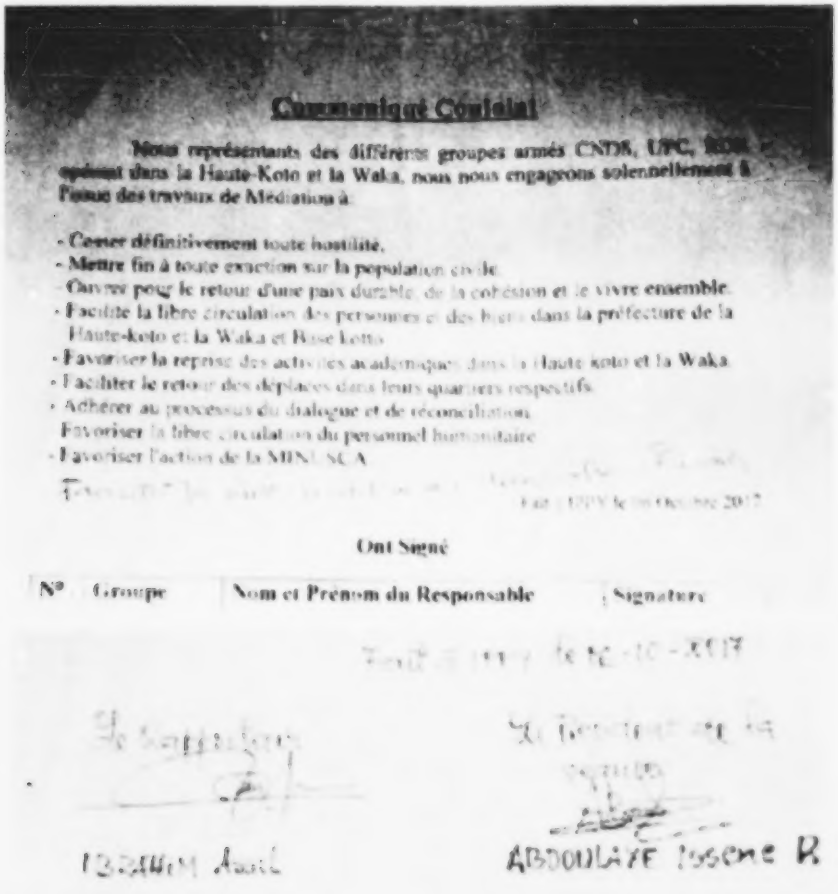
robbed and some, including him, were raped. He said that he was gang-raped by Atai Mamat and two other persons.[9]

On 17 May 2017, a group of UPC fighters abducted and raped a woman who was in the field fetching wood. The victim reported that she was kept in captivity for several days and that besides being raped, she was forced to cook and clean for them.[10]

[9] Meeting with victim, Bangui, 25 September 2017.
[10] Meeting with victim, Bangui, 25 September 2017.

Annex 5.1: Final Communiqué of the meeting of Ippy dated 6 October 2017.

Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 13 October 2017. The document includes the terms of the Ippy Agreement, the list of participants and the minutes of the meeting.



Communiqué Conjoint

Nous représentants des différents groupes armés CNDS, UPC, [illegible] opérant dans la Haute-Kotto et la Waka, nous nous engageons solennellement à l'issue des travaux de Médiation à :

- Cesser définitivement toute hostilité.
- Mettre fin à toute exaction sur la population civile.
- Œuvrer pour le retour d'une paix durable, de la cohésion et le vivre ensemble.
- Facilite la libre circulation des personnes et des biens dans la préfecture de la Haute-kotto et la Waka et Basse kotto.
- Favoriser la reprise des activités académiques dans la Haute kotto et la Waka.
- Faciliter le retour des déplacés dans leurs quartiers respectifs.
- Adhérer au processus du dialogue et de réconciliation.
- Favoriser la libre circulation du personnel humanitaire.
- Favoriser l'action de la MINUSCA.

Fait à IPPY le [illegible] Octobre 2017

Ont Signé

N°	Groupe	Nom et Prenom du Responsable	Signature

[illegible] le 06-10-2017

[illegible]

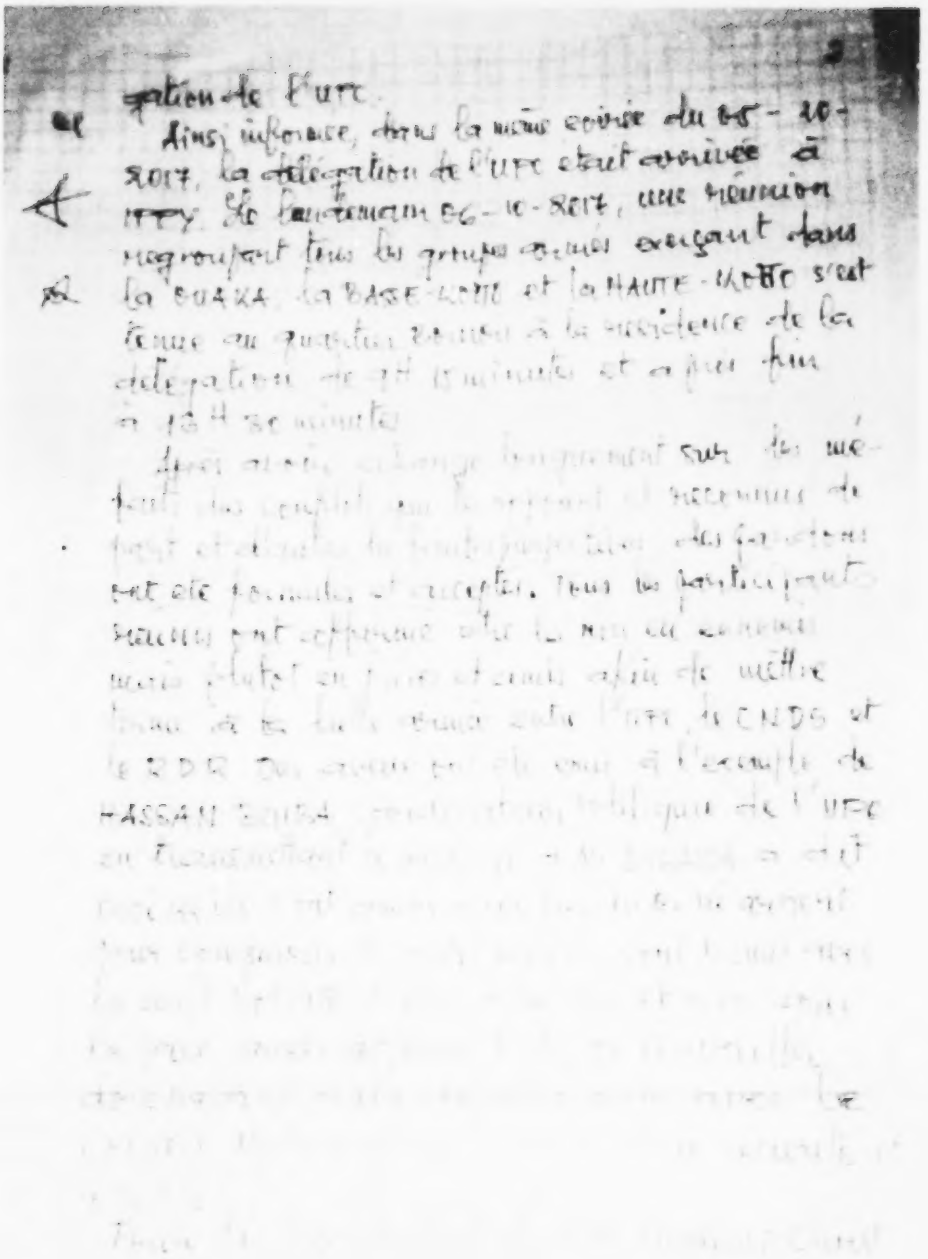
[illegible] Abdel

[illegible]

ABDOULAYE Issene R.

RAPPORT DES ACTIVITES DE LA RENCONTRE DE RECONCILIATION ENTRE LES GROUPES ARMES

Dans le cadre de la recherche de la paix, de la cohésion sociale et le vivre ensemble chers aux Centrafricains, son excellence Monsieur ABDOULAYE SYLVAIN KAMARIAN en qualité du Président du Conseil National de Dialogue et de Sécurité et son excellence Monsieur le Chef de l'EMPC le Général de [illegible] a initié la rencontre entre les leaders des [illegible] [illegible] Monsieur HASSAN [illegible] et le [illegible] CAETANO [illegible]

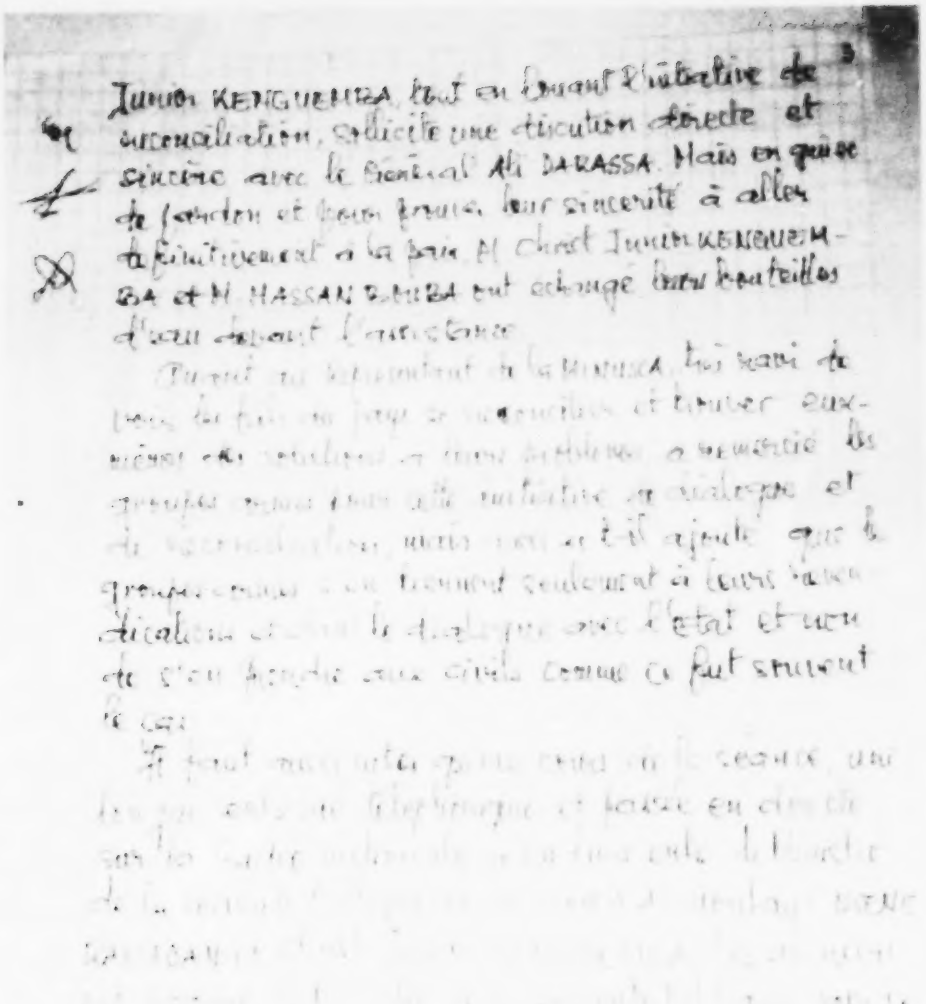


2

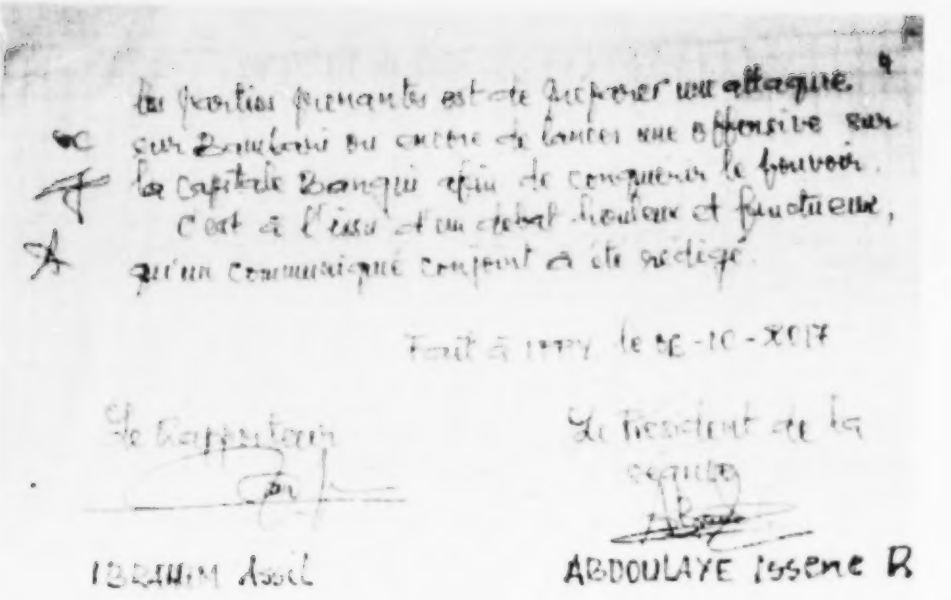
gation de l'UFC

Ainsi informée, dans la même soirée du 05 - 10 - 2017, la délégation de l'UFC était arrivée à ITEBY. Le lendemain 06 - 10 - 2017, une réunion regroupant tous les groupes armés exerçant dans la BOUKA, la BASSE-KOMO et la HAUTE-KOTTO s'est tenue en présence remarquée de la représentante de la délégation de 11 heures et a pris fin à 13 H 30 minutes

Après avoir échangé longuement sur les différents conflits qui les opposent et rappelé le but et objectifs de la mission, des propositions ont été formulées et acceptées. Tous les participants présents ont approuvé que la mise en commun soit plutôt en place et ainsi afin de mettre fin à la fois aux actes de l'UFC, le CNDS et le 3 DR. Des actes qui ont été commis à l'encontre de HASSAN BOUBA [illegible] de l'UFC en [illegible]



Junior KENGUEMBA, tout en louant l'initiative de réconciliation, sollicite une discussion directe et sincère avec le Général Ali DARASSA. Mais en guise de fanfaron et leur preuve, leur sincérité à aller définitivement à la paix Al Chérif Junior KENGUEMBA et M. HASSAN BOUBA ont échangé leurs bouteilles d'eau devant l'assistance.



les forces fidèles est de déjouer une attaque sur Bambari ou encore de lancer une offensive sur la capitale Bangui afin de conquérir le pouvoir.

C'est à l'issue d'un échange fructueux et franc que ce communiqué conjoint a été rédigé.

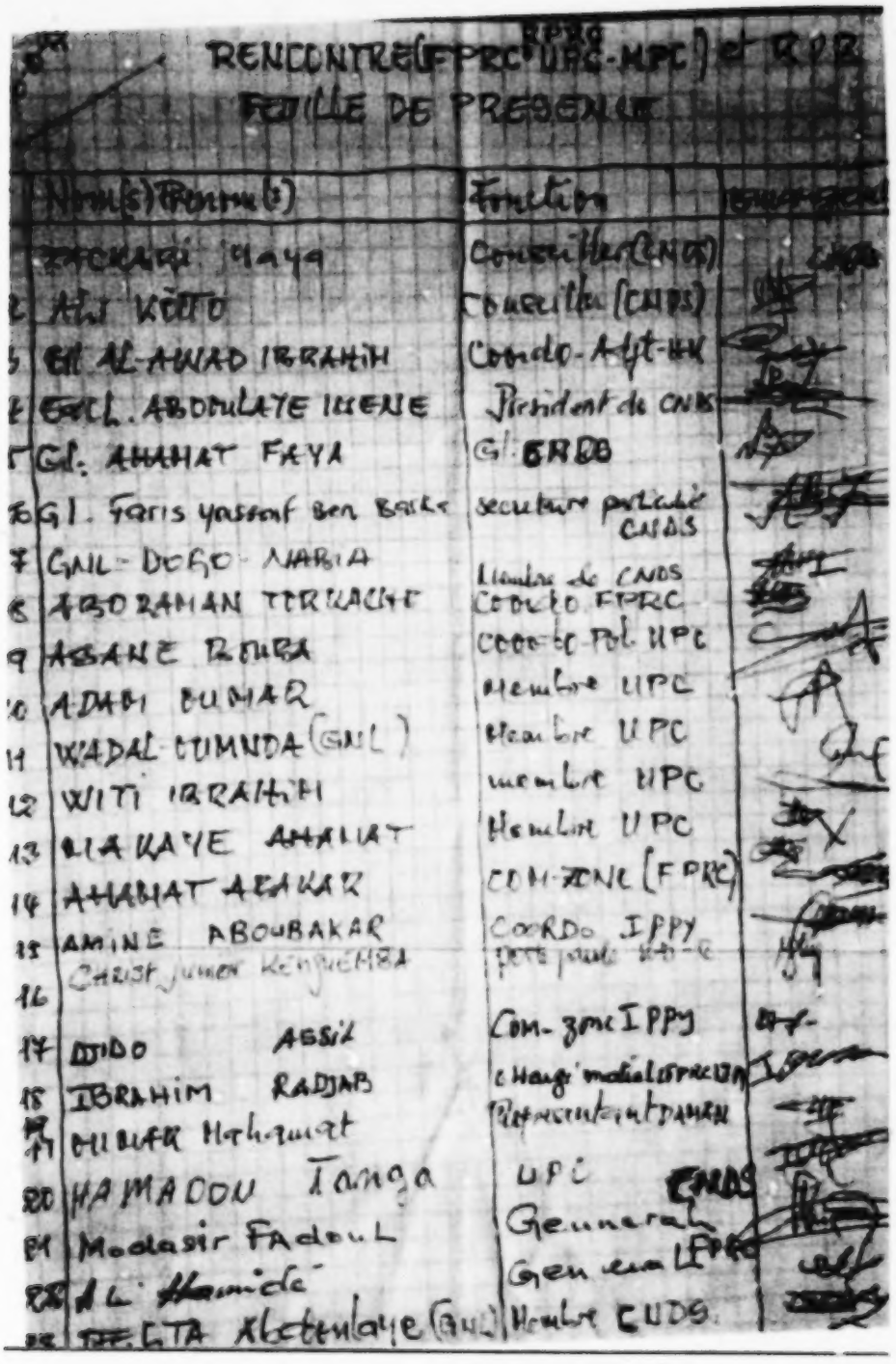
Fait à Nairobi le 26-10-2017

Le Rapporteur

IBRAHIM Assil

Le Président de la coalition

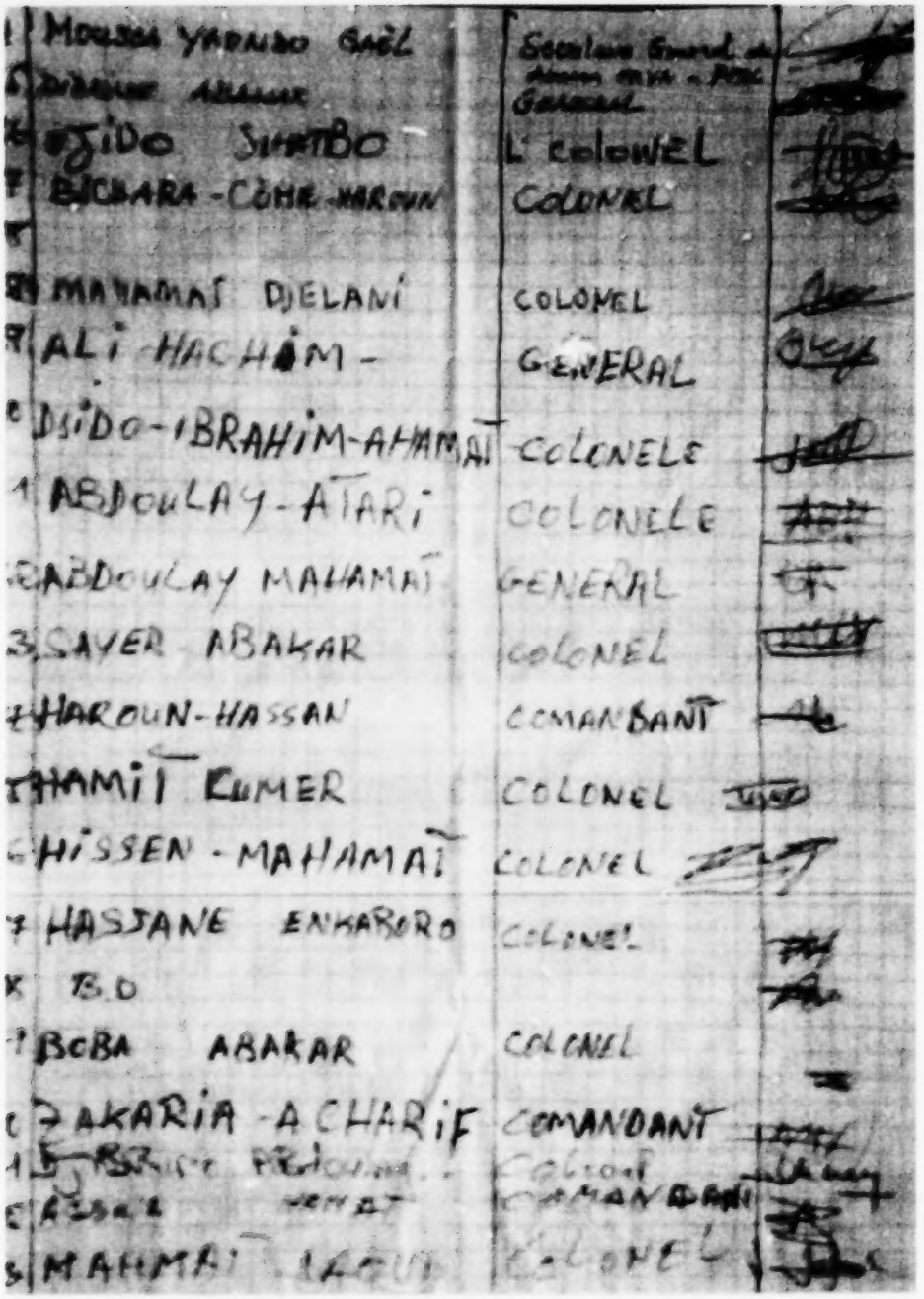
ABDOULAYE Issene R



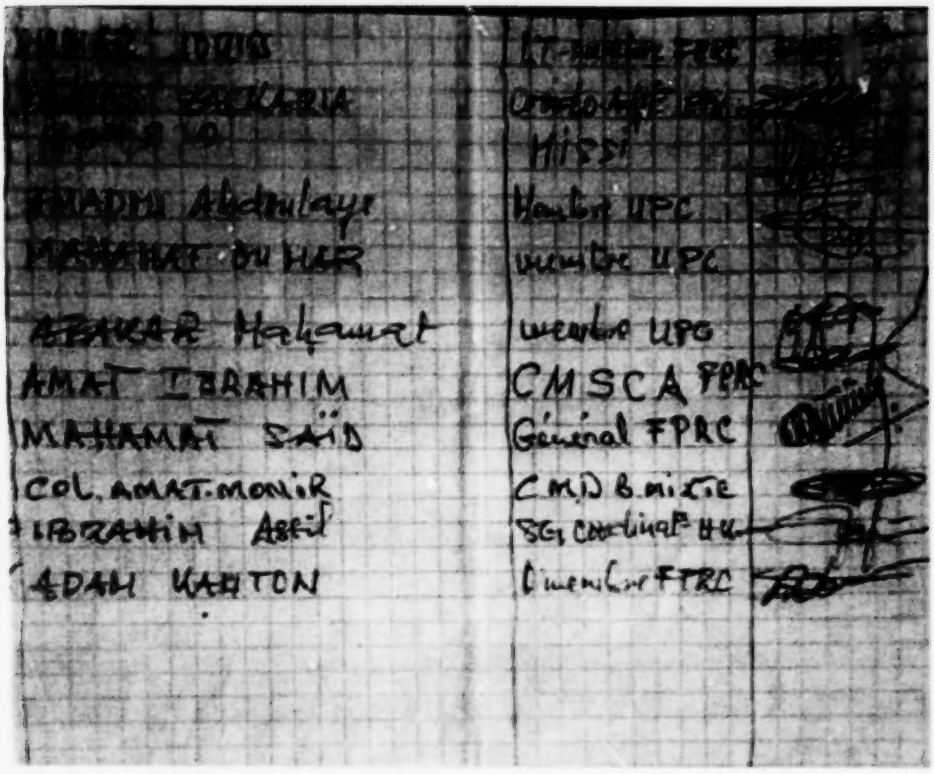
RENCONTRE (FPRC RPRC UFR-MPC) et RJR

FEUILLE DE PRESENCE

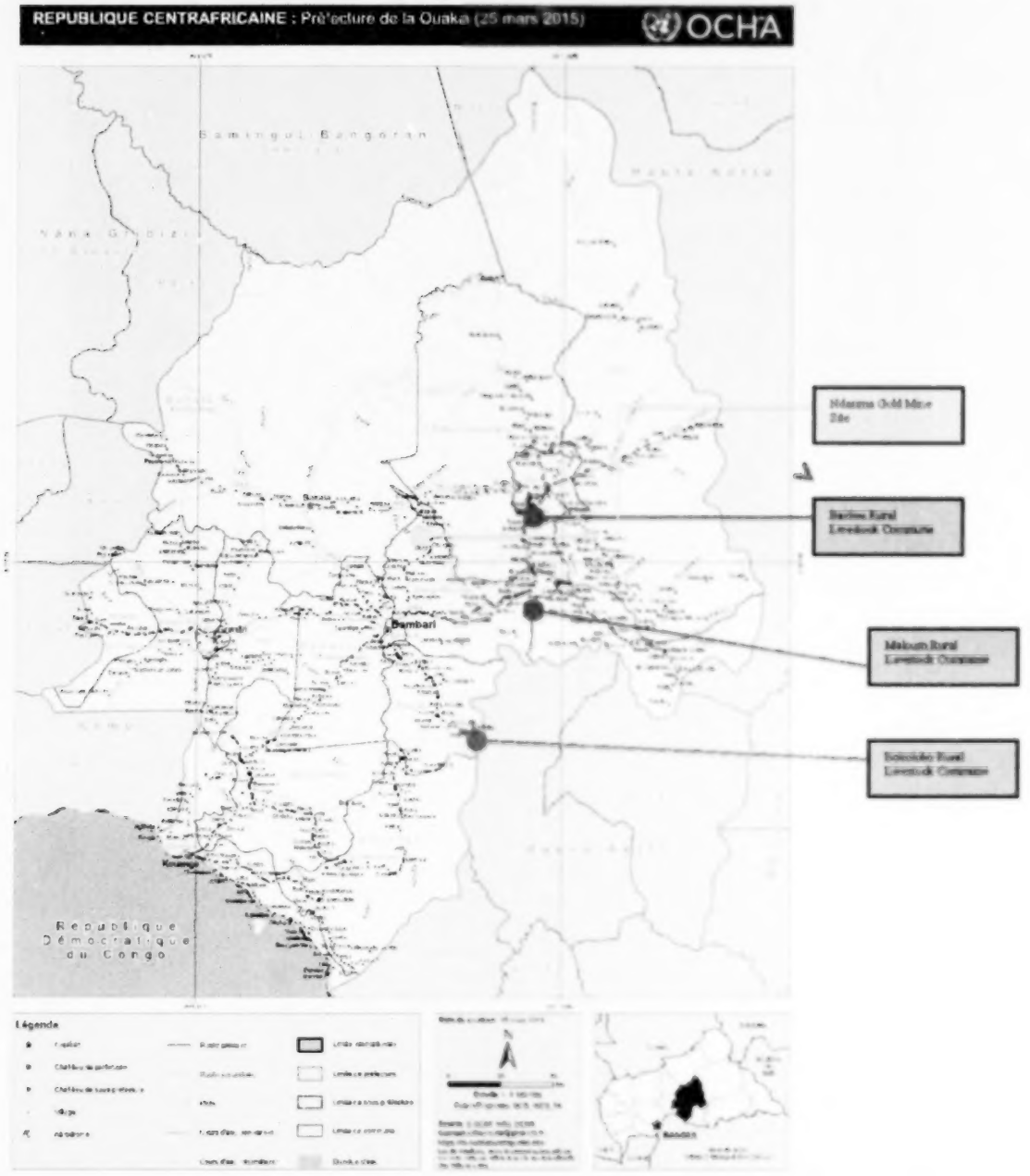
	Nom(s) Prénom(s)	Fonction	Signature
	ZAKARIA HAYA	Conseiller (CNDS)	
2	ALI KOTTO	Conseiller (CNDS)	
3	Gl AL-AWAD IBRAHIM	Coordo-Adjt-UK	
4	Gal. ABDULAYE ISSENE	Président de CNDS	
5	Gl. AHAMAT FAYA	Gl ERDB	
6	Gl. Faris Yassouf Ben Bacar	secrétaire particulier CNDS	
7	GAL- DOGO - NABIA	Membre de CNDS	
8	ABDRAMAN TERMACHE	COORDO FPRC	
9	ASSANE REMBA	COORDO POL UPC	
10	ADAM BUMAR	Membre UPC	
11	WADAL DJIMNDA (GAL)	Membre UPC	
12	WITI IBRAHIM	membre UPC	
13	BLAKAYE AHALIAT	Membre UPC	
14	AHABIAT ABAKAR	COM-ZONE (FPRC)	
15	AMINE ABOUBAKAR	COORDO IPPY	
16	CHRIST DJIMER KENGUEMBA	point focal RJR-C	
17	IDDO ASSIL	Com-zone IPPY	
18	IBRAHIM RADJAB	chargé matériel/PRCCVN	
19	OUBAR Hathamat	Représentant DAMAN	
20	HAMADOU Tanga	UPC CNDS	
21	Moctasir FADOUL	Général	
22	AL' Hamidé	Général FPRC	
23	DELTA Abdoulaye (GAL)	Membre CNDS	



MOUSSA YAYANDO GAEL	Secrétaire Général de [illegible] - Poste Général
[illegible]	
[illegible] DJIDO SIMTBO	Le colonel
BICHARA - CÔME - HAROUN	COLONEL
MAHAMAT DJELANI	COLONEL
ALI HACHIM -	GENERAL
DJIDO - IBRAHIM - AHAMAT	COLONELE
ABDOULAY - ATARI	COLONELE
ABDOULAY MAHAMAT	GENERAL
SAYER ABAKAR	COLONEL
HAROUN - HASSAN	COMANDANT
HAMIT OUMER	COLONEL
HISSEN - MAHAMAT	COLONEL
HASSANE ENKABORO	COLONEL
B.O	
BOBA ABAKAR	COLONEL
ZAKARIA - ACHARIF	COMANDANT
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
MAHMAT [illegible]	[illegible]

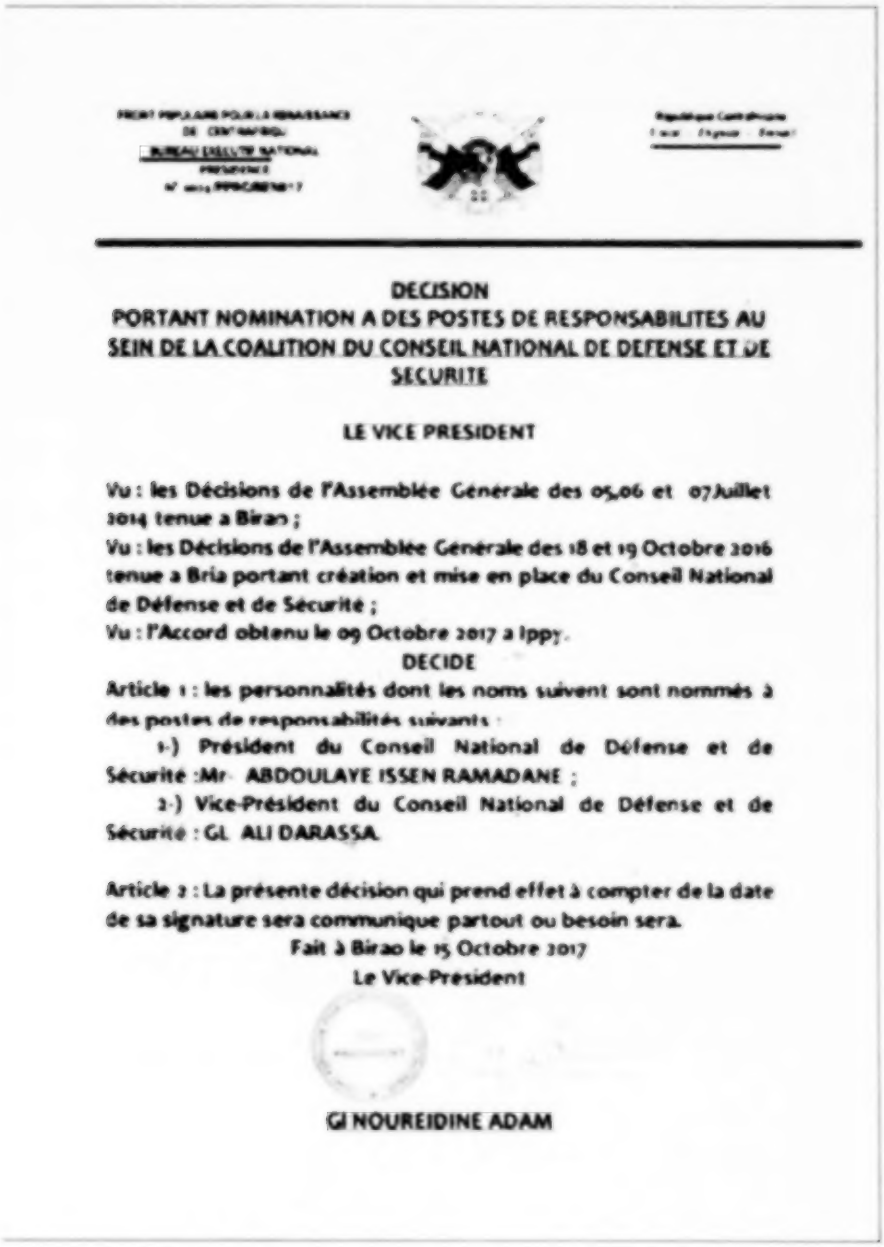

Membre UPC
Membre UPC
Membre UPC
Membre UPC
CMSCA FPRC
Général FPRC
CMD B. mixte
SG Coordinat° HU
Membre FPRC

Annexe 5.2: Map of Ouka prefecture: rural livestock communes and Ndassima gold mine.



Annex 5.3: Communiqué of FPRC dated 15 October 2017, appointing Ali Darassa as CNDS Vice-President.

Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 19 October 2017.



DECISION
PORTANT NOMINATION A DES POSTES DE RESPONSABILITES AU SEIN DE LA COALITION DU CONSEIL NATIONAL DE DEFENSE ET DE SECURITE

LE VICE PRESIDENT

Vu : les Décisions de l'Assemblée Générale des 05,06 et 07Juillet 2014 tenue a Birao ;
Vu : les Décisions de l'Assemblée Générale des 18 et 19 Octobre 2016 tenue a Bria portant création et mise en place du Conseil National de Défense et de Sécurité ;
Vu : l'Accord obtenu le 09 Octobre 2017 a Ippy.

DECIDE

Article 1 : les personnalités dont les noms suivent sont nommés à des postes de responsabilités suivants :

1-) Président du Conseil National de Défense et de Sécurité :Mr ABDOULAYE ISSEN RAMADANE ;

2-) Vice-Président du Conseil National de Défense et de Sécurité : GL ALI DARASSA.

Article 2 : La présente décision qui prend effet à compter de la date de sa signature sera communique partout ou besoin sera.

Fait à Birao le 15 Octobre 2017
Le Vice-President

GI NOUREIDINE ADAM

Annex 5.4: UPC Communiqué of 21 October 2017 noting Ali Darassa's denial of his appointment as a CNDS member.

Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 23 October 2017.

N° 78 / DM / 2017
2017

Bambari, le 21 octobre

COMMUNIQUE DE L'ETAT-MAJOR

L'Unite pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC), a travers la voix de son Coordinateur Militaire, Chef d'Etat-major de l'UPC, le General d'Armee Ali Darassa Mahamat, apporte le dement le plus formel contre l'information selon laquelle le Coordinateur Militaire, Chef d'Etat major de l'UPC, le General d'Armee Ali Darassa Mahamat aurait accepte une nomination au poste de Vice-President du Conseil National de Defense et de Securite (CNDS) telle que rapportee par un communique date du 15 octobre a Birao par le General Nourredine Adam.

Fidele a ses convictions, le Coordinateur Militaire, Chef d'Etat-major de l'UPC, le General d'Armee Ali Darassa Mahamat n'a jamais eu l'intention de quitter l'UPC ni de dissoudre son Mouvement au sein d'une autre entite. L'UPC a signe des Accords de Paix avec tous les groupes et mouvements centrafricains qui cesurent la Paix, dont les Anti Balaka du General Gaetan Boade. Quitter l'UPC equivaudrait a renier ces accords et un retour en arriere dans le chaos qui a frappe notre chere Centrafrique.

Pour rappel, le Coordinateur Militaire, Chef d'Etat-major de l'UPC, le General d'Armee Ali Darassa Mahamat a signe le 11 octobre a Ippy au nom de l'UPC des accords de Paix avec les Generaux Ali et Hissene, mettant fin a une tension interne de plusieurs mois. Recemment encore, l'UPC a accepte son entree dans le Gouvernement Centrafricain afin de conforter la Paix et participer activement au developpement des populations centrafricaines, sans distinction de genre, de religion et d'ethnie.

Les decisions qui concernent l'UPC et son Coordinateur Militaire, Chef d'Etat major de l'UPC, le General d'Armee Ali Darassa Mahamat sont rendues publiques par des communiques de l'UPC qui ne sera jamais infeodee a qui que ce soit.

Vive la Paix, Vive la Centrafrique

Le coordinateur Militaire, Chef d'Etat major de l'UPC

Le General d'Armee Ali Darassa Mahamat

Annex 5.5: MPC communiqué of 1 October 2017 noting Al-Khatim's resignation from CNDS.

Document obtained by the Panel on 19 October 2017.

GENERAL DES ARMES
ALKATIM MAHAMAT
TEL: TE 5052 84

MOUVEMENT PATROTIQUE POUR
LA ENTRAFRIQUE (MPC)
****
PRESIDENCE
****
BUREAU EXECUTIF NATIONAL
****
SECRETARIAT GENERAL
****
ETAT-MAJOR GENERAL DES ARMEES
****
N° 0018 /MPC/PR/BE/SG/EMGA/2017

REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE
****
Unité – Dignité – Travail
****

01 OCT 2017

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

Le **Mouvement Patriotique pour la Centrafrique (MPC)**, par la voix de son Chef d'Etat-major, le Général **ALKATIM MAHAMAT**, porte à la connaissance du Gouvernement Centrafricaine, de la communauté internationale, de la MINUSCA et de l'opinion nationale, que le **MPC** n'a aucun accord avec tous les Mouvements ou fonction de la coalisions Ex-Seleka.

A savoir, **FPRC, RPRC, Rj, et 3R**

A daté de ce jour, 01/10/2017, que tous le monde comprennent, le **MPC** est un Mouvement Politico-militaire a part entière et indépendant de toute coalisions avec les différentes tendances, représenté par deux (2) structures fonctionnelle à savoir:

- **Etat Major général du Mouvement**
- **Bureau Politique**

Désormais à l'intention du gouvernement centrafricaine, de la communauté internationale et a la MINUSCA, s'agissant des nos revendications politique, il revient à l'Etat major du mouvement de le faire par écrit et transmettre à qui de droit ou par la voix de notre représentant a Bangui pour transmission. Et non, un autre leader d'un groupe armé ou un autre mouvement à le droit de discuté ou négocier a notre place.

01 OCT 2017

Fait à Kaga Bandoro le 01/10/2017

Le Général **ALKATIM MAHAMAT**

Chef d'état major du Mouvement (MPC)

GENERAL DES ARMES
ALKATIM MAHAMAT
TEL: TE 5052 84

LE CHEF D'ETAT MAJOR DES ARMES

Annex 5.6 FPRC communiqué of 11 October 2017 expressing FPRC opposition to the prefects appointed by President Touadéra.

Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 12 October 2017.

FRONT POPULAIRE
POUR LA RENAISSANCE
DE CENTRAFRIQUE

BUREAU EXECUTIF
NATIONAL
PRESIDENCE

No. 0032 /FPRC/BEN017

RÉPUBLIQUE
CENTRAFRICAINE

Unité - Dignité - Travail

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE DUBUREAU POLITIQUE

Le bureau politique du Font Populaire pour la Renaissance de Centrafrique (FPRC) communique á l'intention du Gouvernement et de la Communauté Internationale que la Stabilité dans la region du Nord- Est demande une retenue dans Les actions à mener. C'est pourquoi il demande au Gouvernement de sursoir pour l'instant l'envoi des nouveaux Préfets dans ces zones afin d'éviter des nouvelles manifestations populaires hostiles à la venue des nouveaux et de continuer avec les anciens

Faità Birao le 11 Octobre 2017
LeVice-Président

G/ NOUREIDINE ADAM

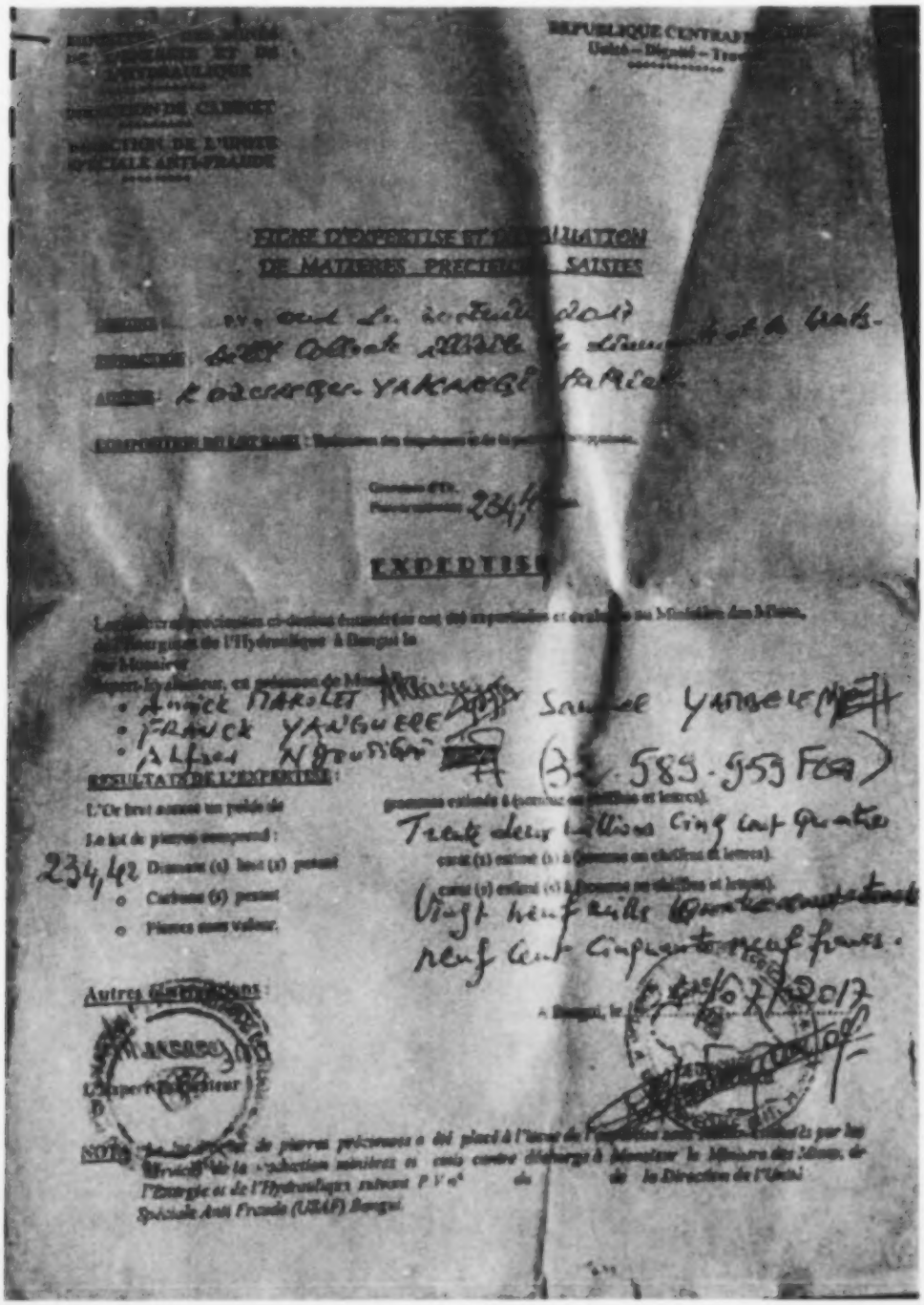
Annex 5.7. Training of youth from Vakaga prefecture by a consultant recruited by FPRC

Photograph obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 23 October 2017

CERTIFICAT
Le Centre Althuraya pour le Développement et les Ressources Humaines Certifie que la
[redacted]
Qui finit avec succès la formation de performance
LEADER ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONEL
SESSION DE JANVIER DU : 1/4/2017 – 14/4/2017
TOTALITE DES HEURES 100 HEURES
SIGNE LE 14/4/2017
LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL
MOHAMED KAMAL ELDIN
FORMATEUR PRINCIPAL

Annex 5.8: Minutes of Patrick Kozungu-Yakangi's hearing by USAF.

Document obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 18 August 2017.



FICHE D'EXPERTISE ET D'ÉVALUATION
DE MATIERES PRECIEUSES SAISIES

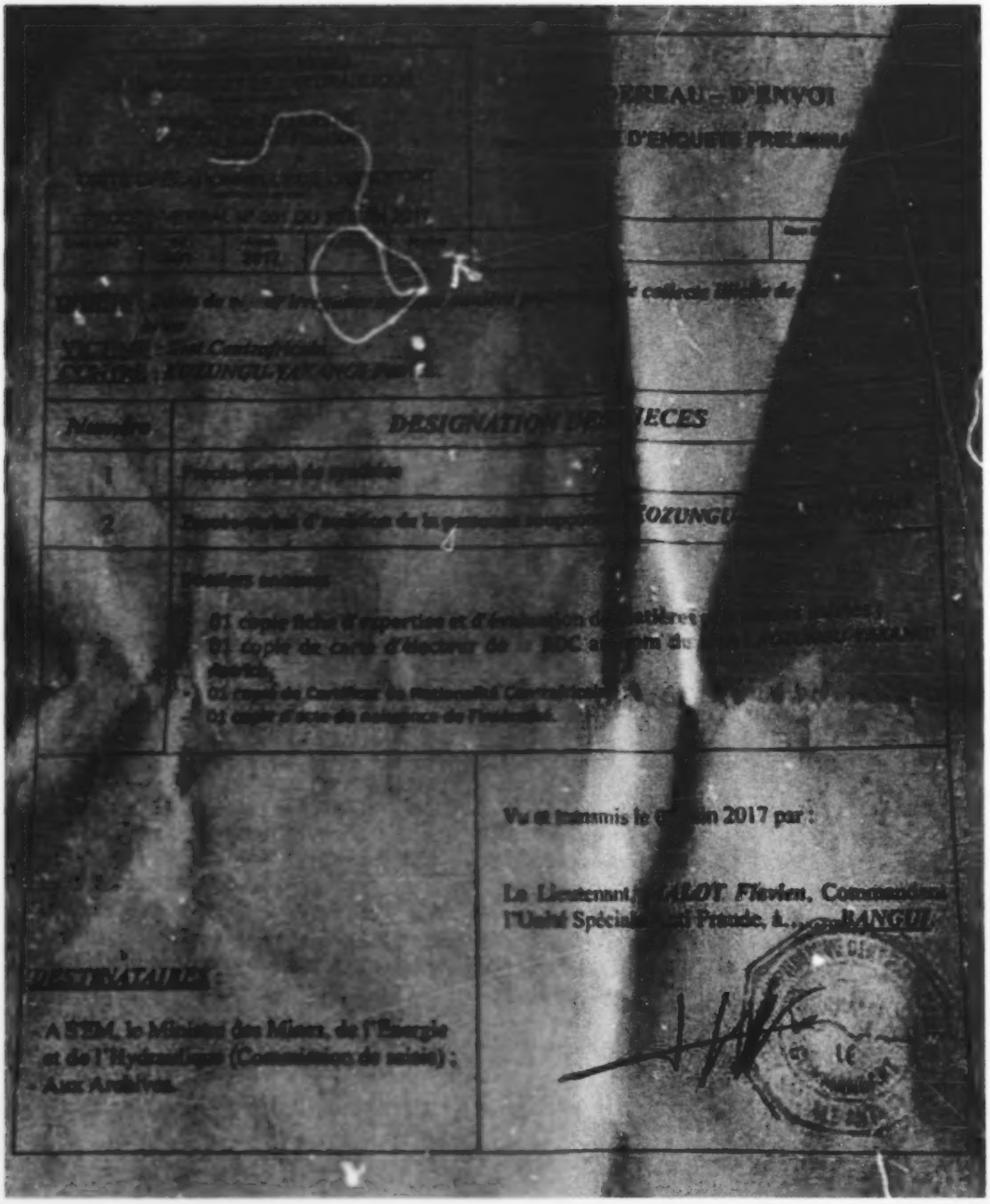
EXPERTISE

RESULTATS DE L'EXPERTISE :

234/42

Trente deux millions Cinq cent quatre

Vingt neuf mille Quatre cent cinquante neuf francs.



BORDEREAU – D'ENVOI

D'ENQUETE PRELIMINA

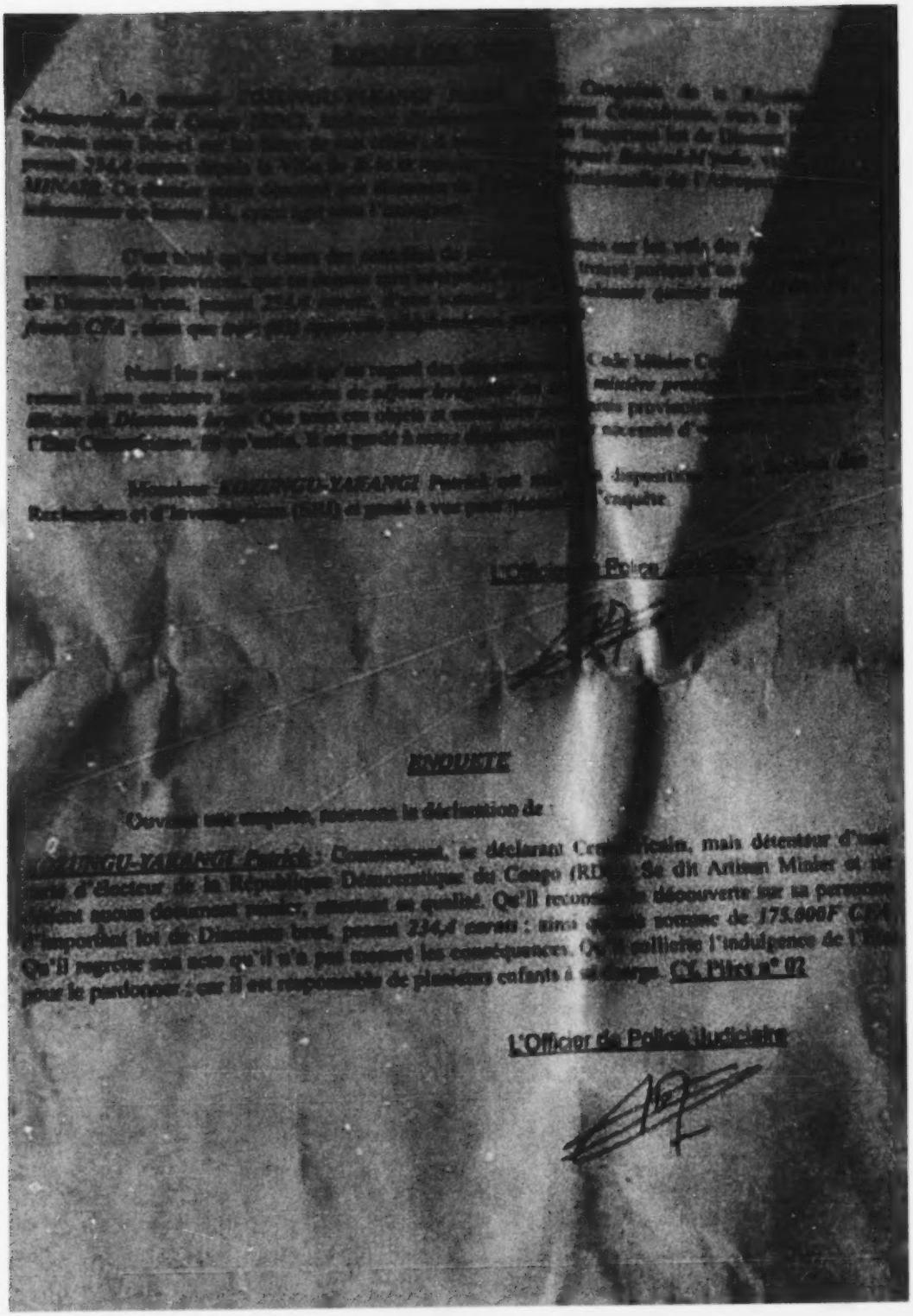
Numéro	DESIGNATION DES PIECES
1	
2	

Vu et transmis le [illegible] 2017 par :

Le Lieutenant [illegible] ALOT Flavien, Commandant l'Unité Spéciale [illegible] Preuve, à [illegible] BANGUI

DESTINATAIRES :

- A SEM, le Ministre des Mines, de l'Energie et de l'Hydraulique (Commission de saisie) ;
- Aux Archives.

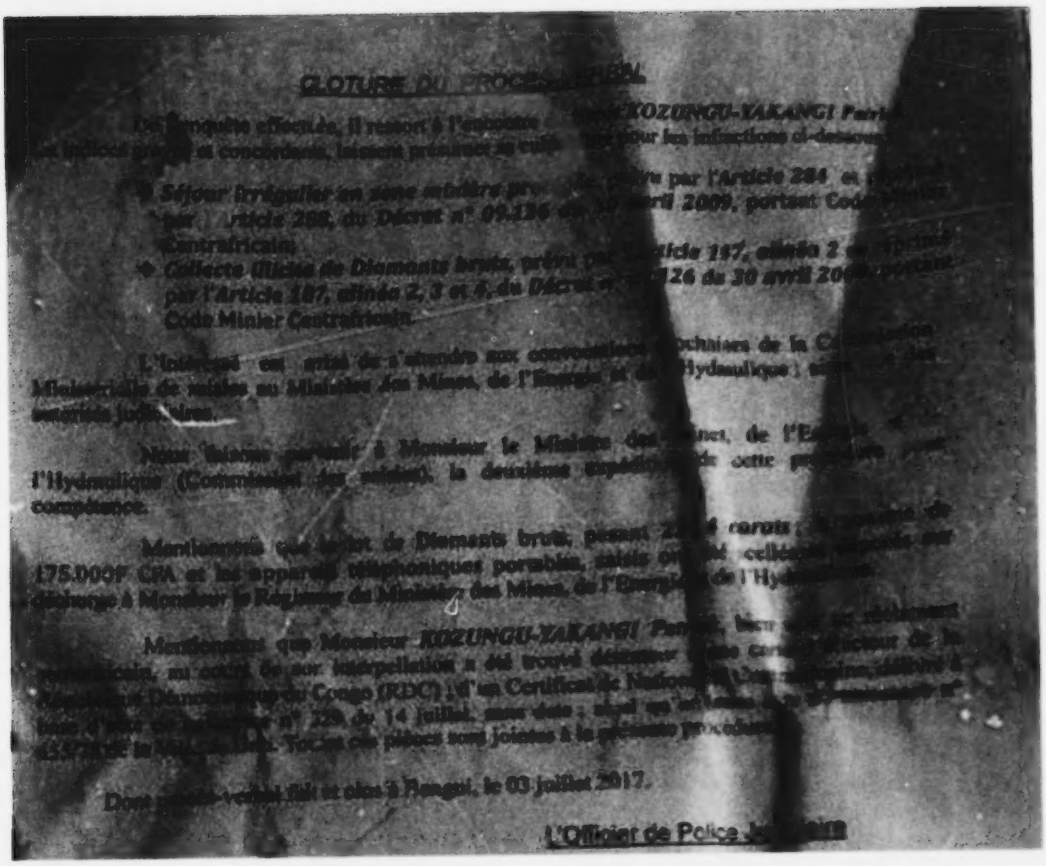


ENQUETE

Ouvrant son enquête, nous avons la déclaration de :

MBINGU-YAVANGE Patrick : Conséquent, se déclarant Congolais, mais détenteur d'une carte d'électeur de la République Démocratique du Congo (RDC). Se dit Artisan Minier et ne détient aucun document minier, exerçant en qualité. Qu'il reconnaît la découverte sur sa personne d'importante loi de Diamants brut, pesant *234,4 carats* ; sans qu'il puisse nommer de *175.000F CFA*. Qu'il regrette son acte qu'il n'a pas mesuré les conséquences. Qu'il sollicite l'indulgence de l'Etat pour le pardonner ; car il est responsable de plusieurs enfants à sa charge. CE Pièce n° 02

L'Officier de Police Judiciaire



CLOTURE DU PROCES-VERBAL

De l'enquête effectuée, il ressort à l'encontre [illegible] KOZUNGU-YAKANGI Patrick [illegible] pour les infractions ci-dessous [illegible]

- Séjour irrégulier en zone minière prévu par l'Article 284 et [illegible] par l'Article 288, du Décret n° 09.126 du 30 avril 2009, portant Code [illegible] Centrafricain;
- Collecte illicite de Diamants bruts, prévu par l'Article 187, alinéa 2 [illegible] par l'Article 187, alinéa 2, 3 et 4, du Décret n° [illegible]126 du 30 avril 200[illegible] portant Code Minier Centrafricain.

L'intéressé est prié de s'attendre aux conséquences [illegible]chniques de la C[illegible] Ministérielle de saisie au Ministère des Mines, de l'Energie et de l'Hydraulique ; [illegible] autorités judiciaires.

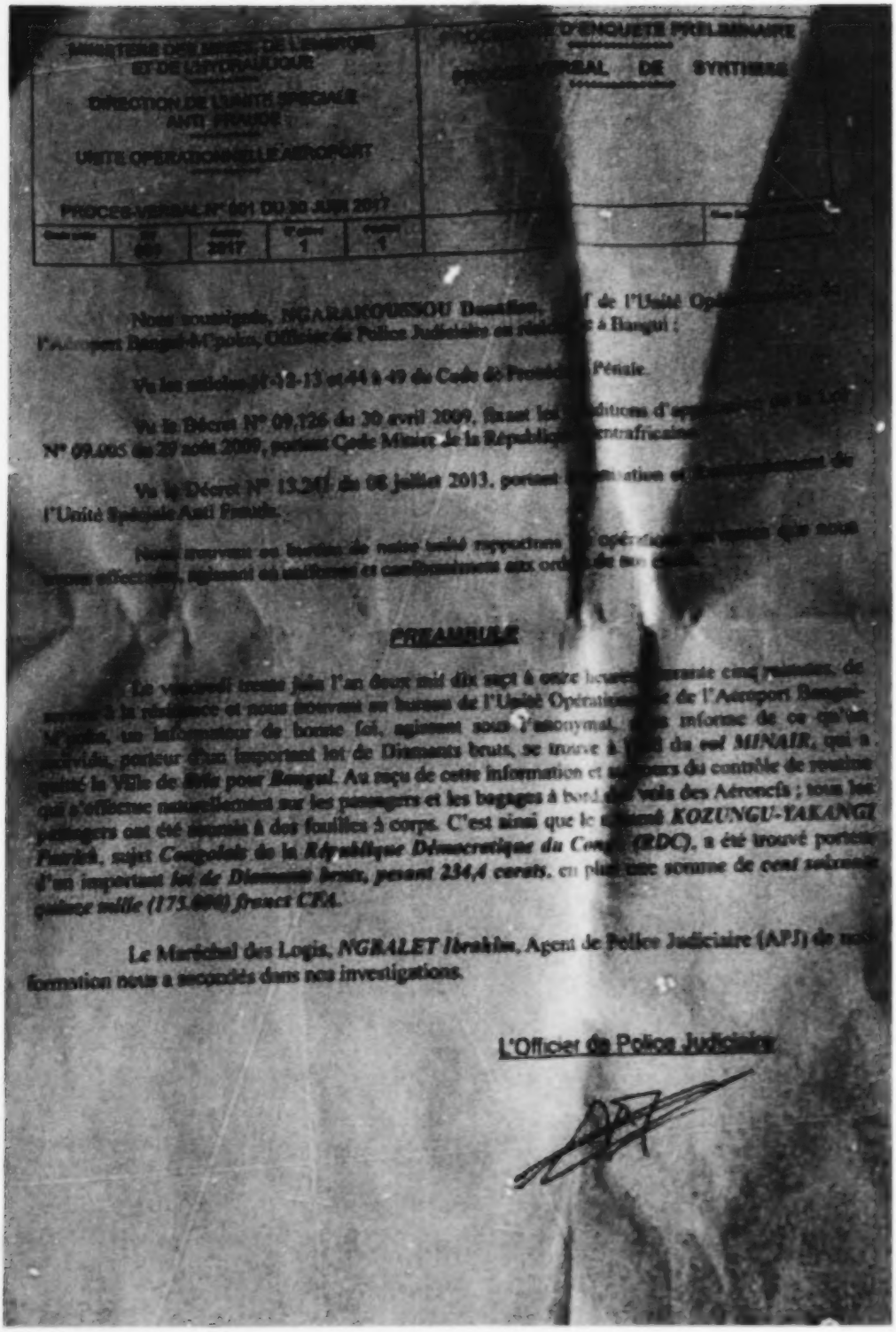
Nous [illegible] portant à Monsieur le Ministre des [illegible]nes, de l'E[illegible] l'Hydraulique (Commission des saisies), la deuxième exp[illegible] de cette [illegible] compétence.

Mentionnons que le lot de Diamants bruts, pesant 2[illegible]4 carats ; [illegible] 175.000F CFA et les appareils téléphoniques portables, saisis [illegible] cellu[illegible] remis en charge à Monsieur le Régisseur des Mines, de l'Energ[illegible] de l'Hydr[illegible].

Mentionnons que Monsieur KOZUNGU-YAKANGI Patrick, [illegible] interpellation, au cours de son interpellation a été trouvé détenteur [illegible] carte [illegible] délivrée par [illegible] Congo (RDC) ; d'un Certificat de Nationalité [illegible] ; d'un [illegible] délivré à [illegible] Démocratique du Congo n° 226 du 14 juillet [illegible] sans date ; signé par [illegible] [illegible] n° [illegible] délivré le [illegible] 45.57[illegible] de la Mairie [illegible]. Toutes ces pièces sont jointes à la présente procédure.

Dont procès-verbal fait et clos à Bangui, le 03 juillet 2017.

L'Officier de Police Judiciaire



MINISTERE DES MINES, DE L'ENERGIE ET DE L'HYDRAULIQUE

DIRECTION DE L'UNITE SPECIALE ANTI FRAUDE

UNITE OPERATIONNELLE AEROPORT

PROCES-VERBAL N° 001 DU 30 JUIN 2017

PROCÈS D'ENQUÊTE PRÉLIMINAIRE

PROCÈS-VERBAL DE SYNTHÈSE

	001	2017	1	1

Nous soussigné, NGARAKOUSSOU Dieudonné, [illegible] de l'Unité Opérationnelle de l'Aéroport Bangui-M'poko, Officier de Police Judiciaire en résidence à Bangui ;

Vu les articles 8-12-13 et 44 à 49 du Code de Procédure Pénale.

Vu le Décret N° 09.126 du 20 avril 2009, fixant les conditions d'application de la Loi N° 09.005 du 29 août 2009, portant Code Minier de la République Centrafricaine.

Vu le Décret N° 13.247 du 08 juillet 2013, portant création et fonctionnement de l'Unité Spéciale Anti Fraude.

Nous trouvant au bureau de notre unité rapportons les opérations que nous avons effectuées, agissant en uniforme et conformément aux ordres de notre chef.

PREAMBULE

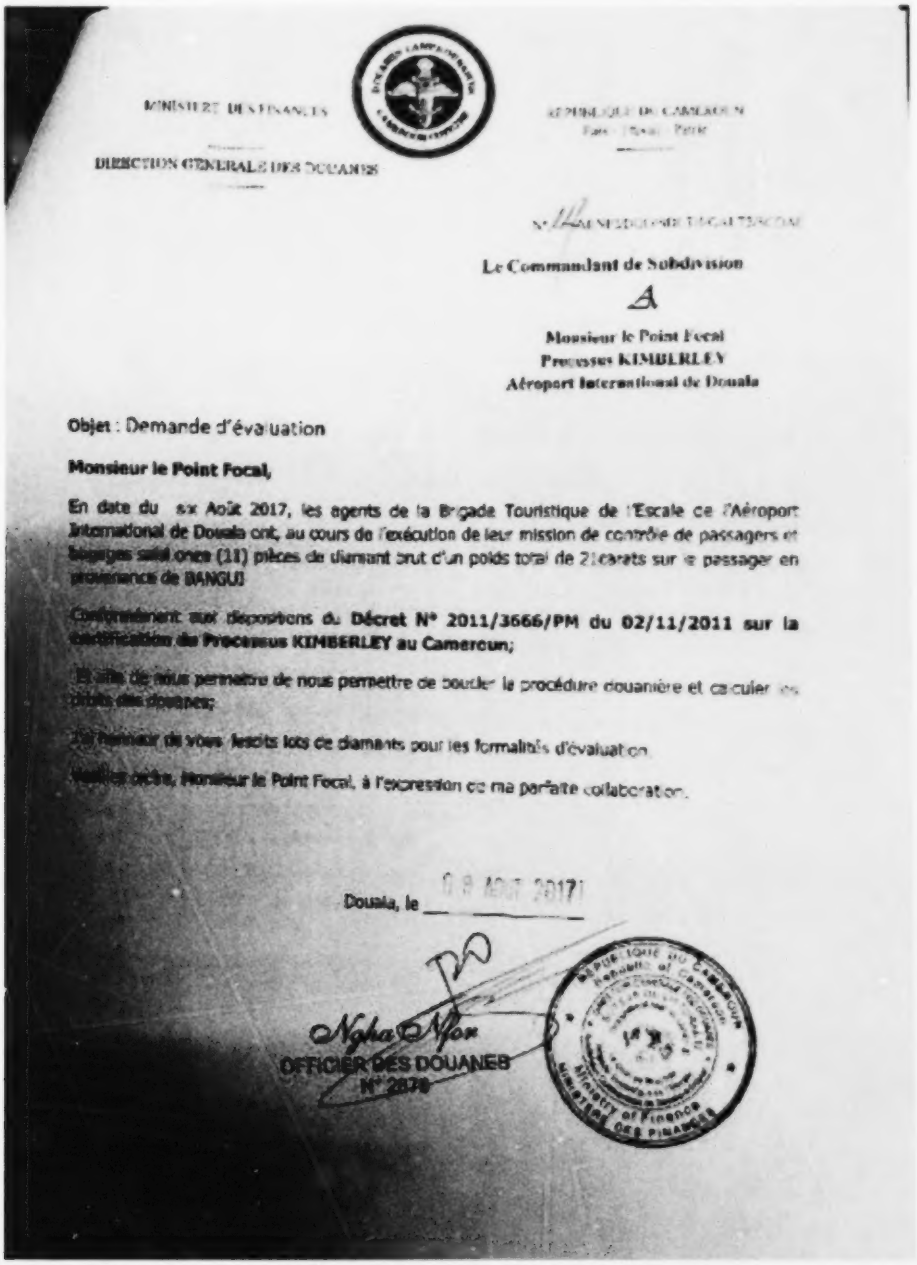
Le vendredi trente juin l'an deux mil dix sept à onze heures trente cinq minutes, de service à la résidence et nous trouvant au bureau de l'Unité Opérationnelle de l'Aéroport Bangui-M'poko, un informateur de bonne foi, agissant sous l'anonymat, nous informe de ce qu'un nommé, porteur d'un important lot de Diamants bruts, se trouve à bord du *vol MINAIR*, qui a quitté la Ville de *Kole pour Bangui*. Au reçu de cette information et au cours du contrôle de routine qui s'effectue naturellement sur les passagers et les bagages à bord des vols des Aéronefs ; tous les passagers ont été soumis à des fouilles à corps. C'est ainsi que le nommé *KOZUNGU-YAKANGI Fiarich*, sujet *Congolais* de la *République Démocratique du Congo (RDC)*, a été trouvé porteur d'un important *lot de Diamants bruts, pesant 234,4 carats*, en plus une somme de *cent soixante quinze mille (175.000) francs CFA*.

Le Maréchal des Logis, *NGRALET Ibrahim*, Agent de Police Judiciaire (APJ) de notre formation nous a secondés dans nos investigations.

L'Officier de Police Judiciaire

Annex 5.9: Record of diamonds of Mr. Abadi Shouki seized in Douala, Cameroon.

Document obtained by the Panel on 11 September 2017 from the Kimberley Focal Point in Douala.



MINISTERE DES FINANCES

DIRECTION GENERALE DES DOUANES

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Le Commandant de Subdivision

A

Monsieur le Point Focal
Processus KIMBERLEY
Aéroport International de Douala

Objet : Demande d'évaluation

Monsieur le Point Focal,

En date du six Août 2017, les agents de la Brigade Touristique de l'Escale de l'Aéroport International de Douala ont, au cours de l'exécution de leur mission de contrôle de passagers et bagages saisi onze (11) pièces de diamant brut d'un poids total de 21carats sur le passager en provenance de BANGUI

Conformément aux dispositions du **Décret N° 2011/3666/PM du 02/11/2011 sur la mise en application du Processus KIMBERLEY au Cameroun;**

Il vous plaît de nous permettre de nous permettre de bouclier la procédure douanière et calculer les droits des douanes;

Je demeure de vous lesdits lots de diamants pour les formalités d'évaluation.

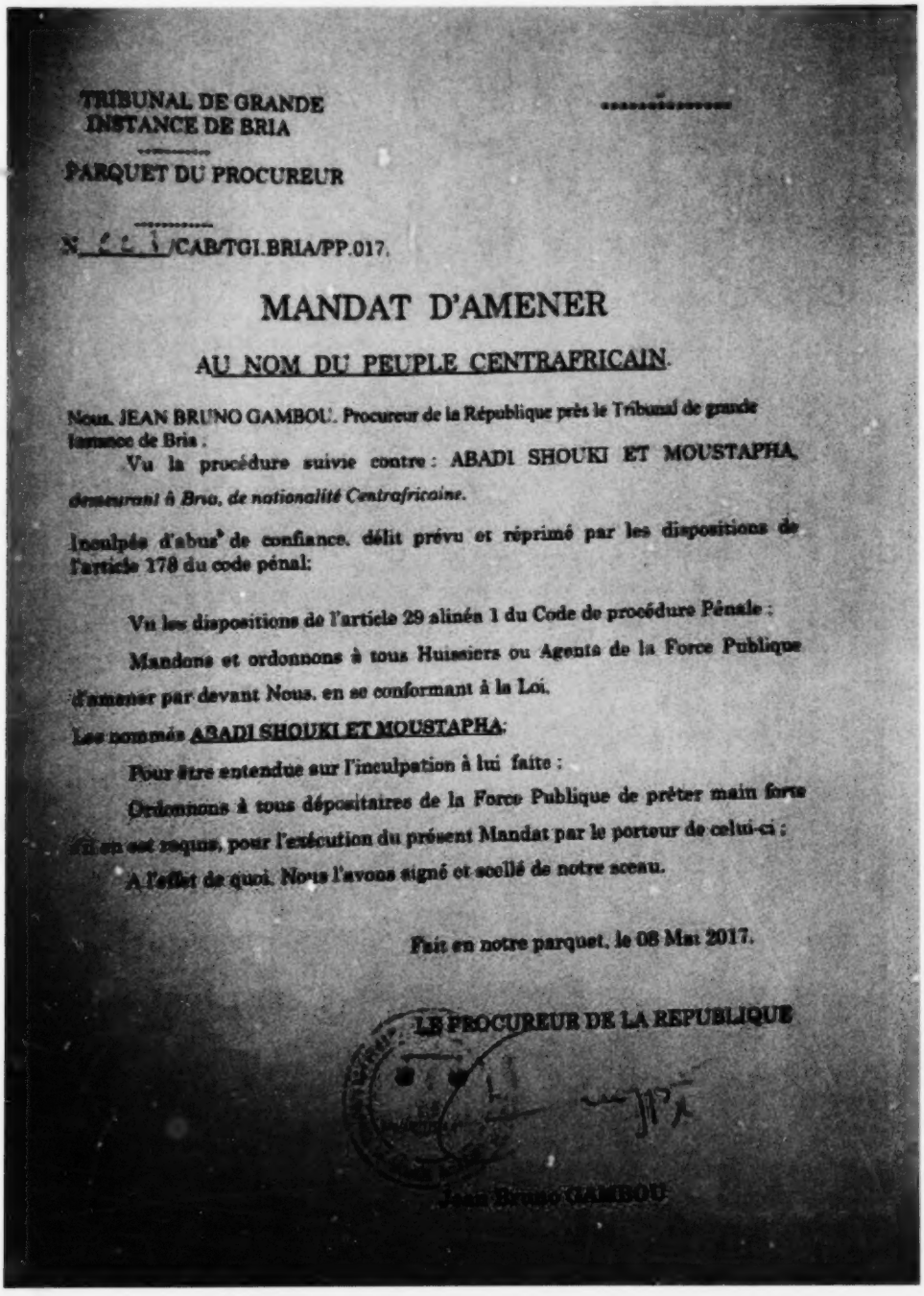
Veuillez croire, Monsieur le Point Focal, à l'expression de ma parfaite collaboration.

Douala, le 09 AOUT 2017

Ngha Nfor
OFFICIER DES DOUANES
N° 2078

Annex 5.10: Warrant and case filed against Abadi Shouki.

Documents obtained by the Panel from a confidential source on 9 September 2017.



TRIBUNAL DE GRANDE INSTANCE DE BRIA

PARQUET DU PROCUREUR

N° 211/CAB/TGI.BRIA/PP.017.

MANDAT D'AMENER

AU NOM DU PEUPLE CENTRAFRICAIN.

Nous, JEAN BRUNO GAMBOU, Procureur de la République près le Tribunal de grande Instance de Bria ;

Vu la procédure suivie contre : ABADI SHOUKI ET MOUSTAPHA, *demeurant à Bria, de nationalité Centrafricaine.*

Inculpés d'abus de confiance, délit prévu et réprimé par les dispositions de l'article 178 du code pénal;

Vu les dispositions de l'article 29 alinéa 1 du Code de procédure Pénale ;

Mandons et ordonnons à tous Huissiers ou Agents de la Force Publique d'amener par devant Nous, en se conformant à la Loi,

Les nommés ABADI SHOUKI ET MOUSTAPHA;

Pour être entendue sur l'inculpation à lui faite ;

Ordonnons à tous dépositaires de la Force Publique de prêter main forte s'il en est requis, pour l'exécution du présent Mandat par le porteur de celui-ci ;

A l'effet de quoi, Nous l'avons signé et scellé de notre sceau.

Fait en notre parquet, le 08 Mai 2017.

LE PROCUREUR DE LA REPUBLIQUE

Jean Bruno GAMBOU

TRIBUNAL DE GRANDE INSTANCE DE BRIA

Unité – Dignité - Travail

N° 154 /CAB/TGI.BRIA/PP.017.

SOIT-TRANSMIS

A

Monsieur le Commandant de la Brigade Territoriale de BRIA

Objet : Enquête en arrestation si les faits sont établis avec transfèrement.

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre la plainte de monsieur MOUNZER Nassour et autres : **POUR EXECUTION des instructions y relatives.**

Fait en notre Parquet, le 08 Mai 2017

Le Procureur de la République

Jean Bruno GAMBOU

Annex 5.11: Weapons of ex-Séléka leaders and fighters

MPC leader General Al-Khatim showing his QSZ-92-2 caliber 9x19 mm pistol. Photograph taken by the Panel in Kaga Bandoro on 13 September 2017.

Photograph of pistol manufactured by the Turkish enterprise RETAY, obtained by the Panel from confidential source on 3 November 2017. Such pistols are used by ex-Séléka fighters.

Annex 5.12: FPRC and MPC fighters and their weaponry in Ouandago and along the axis between Batangafo, Kabo and Sido (Nana-Gribizi prefecture).

Photographs taken by the Panel during its field mission from 11 to 15 August 2017.

Photographs of FPRC fighters and their weaponry taken by the Panel in Akoursoulbak on 18 October 2017.

Photographs of FPRC/Goula fighters and their weaponry taken by the Panel in Bria on 8 October 2017.

Annex 5.13: Taxation system set up by General Damane.

In February 2017, a deal worth FCFA 12 million was struck between General Damane and a Sudanese merchant for the supply of weapons and ammunition.[11] The weapons were transported in commercial trucks via the road between Tulu and Ouadda (Haut-Kotto prefecture), as observed by an eyewitness, where they were received by General Damane.

General Damane was able to make the payment thanks to a lucrative taxation system. General Damane controls the "customs service" at five road blocks on the road between Ouadda and Bria, and every commercial truck is charged FCFA 250,000 per road block. Between February and May 2017, the taxes for the five roadblocks, i.e. FCFA 1.25 million, had to be paid integrally in Ouadda.

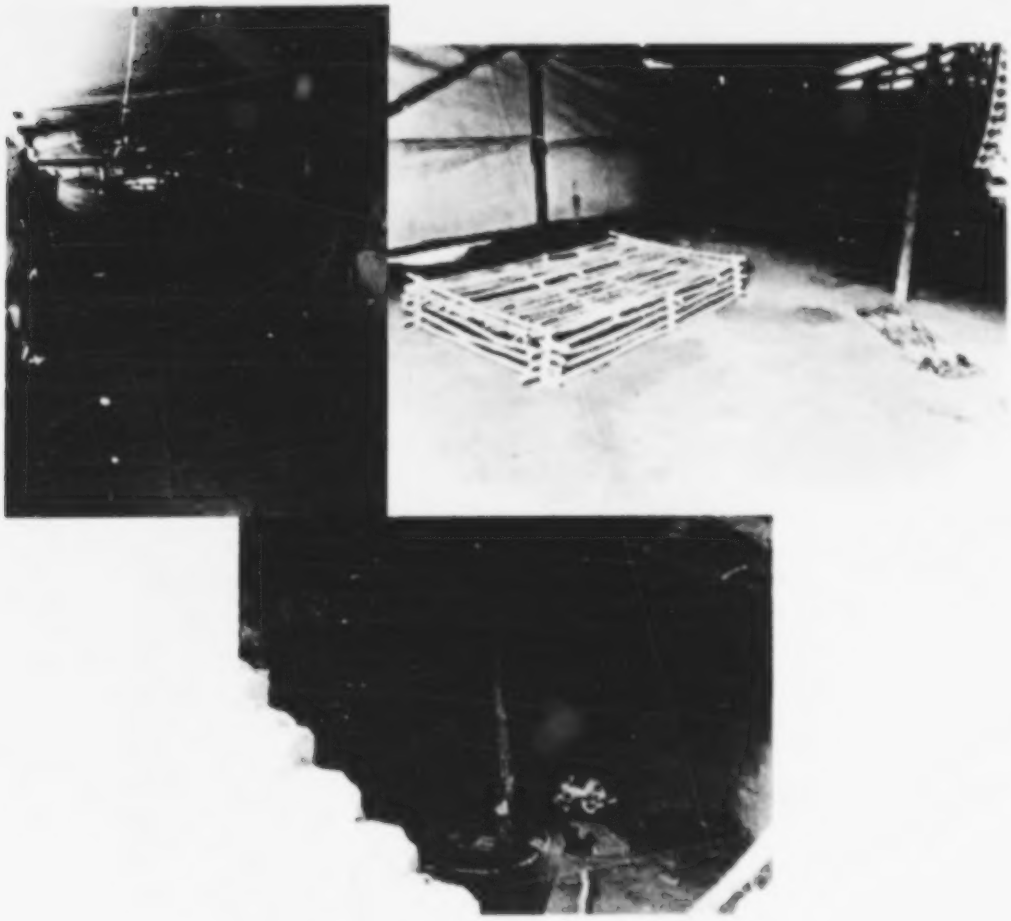
[11] Meeting with confidential source, Bangui, 24 September and 20 October 2017. IPIS study, unpublished.

Annex 5.14: Destruction of Batangafo and IDP camp.

Photographs taken by the Panel, Batangafo, 11 August 2017.

Annex 5.15 IDPs and returnees' camps at Kabo and Moyen Sido.

Photographs taken by the Panel in Kabo and Moyen Sido (Nana-Grébizi), 12 and 13 August 2017.



Annex 5.16: FPRC and UPC command orders for the release of child soldiers.

FPRC command order for the release of child soldiers dated 13 May 2017.

[redacted]

Fait le 13 Mai 2017

NOTE CIRCULAIRE

A l'attention des Officiers, Sous-Officiers, et les Commandants des Zones

Il est impérativement demandé à tous les Officiers Généraux, Officiers Supérieurs, Sous-Officiers et Commandants des Zones au strict respect et à l'application effective des dispositions de l'Accord sur l'engagement des groupes Politico-militaires, signé le 5 Mai 2015 pour mettre fin au recrutement et l'utilisation des enfants dans le groupe ainsi que les autres violations graves des Droits de l'enfant.

Tous les enfants âgés de moins de 18 ans identifiés, doivent être recensés et dissocier du groupe et remis automatiquement aux équipes de la cellule pour la protection de l'enfance de la Minusca et à l'UNICEF tel que souscrit dans l'accord susmentionné.

Il est par ailleurs demandé à tous ces responsables militaires mentionnés ci-haut à faciliter l'accès et la libre circulation aux équipes techniques et les points focaux du mouvement désignés à cet effet qui sillonneront leurs localités respectives de contrôle. Ainsi il faut leur apporter soutien et protection pour la réussite de cette mission.

[redacted]

Le Vice Président

Gl Nourredine ADAM

UPC command order for the release of child soldiers dated 25 September 2017.

N° [illegible] Abidjan, le 25 septembre 2017

MEMORANDUM - Pour la sortie des enfants des rangs de l'UPC

L'Union pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC) est signataire de l'Accord d'Engagement du 24 avril 2015 entre les groupes politico-militaires et le Gouvernement de Centrafrique. L'UPC a investi un Coordinateur Militaire, Chef d'Etat-major de l'UPC, le Général d'armée Ali Darassa Mahamat.

Rappelant [illegible]

Confirmant son engagement actif dans un dialogue de sortie de crise pour le recouvrement de la paix et la sécurité sur l'ensemble du territoire de la République Centrafricaine et la sécurité de toutes les populations vivant en Centrafrique et leurs environnements régionaux, le retour de l'Etat de bonne gouvernance et de l'Etat de droit.

Confirmant qu'il est temps [illegible]

Soucieux de la préservation et la protection de chaque enfant de Centrafrique [illegible]

L'UPC, à travers son Coordinateur Militaire, Chef d'Etat-major de l'UPC, le Général d'armée Ali Darassa Mahamat prend la ferme résolution de sortir tous les garçons et toutes les filles de moins de 18 ans qui se trouveraient encore dans ses rangs et de les remettre à l'UNICEF pour leur réinsertion dans la vie civile.

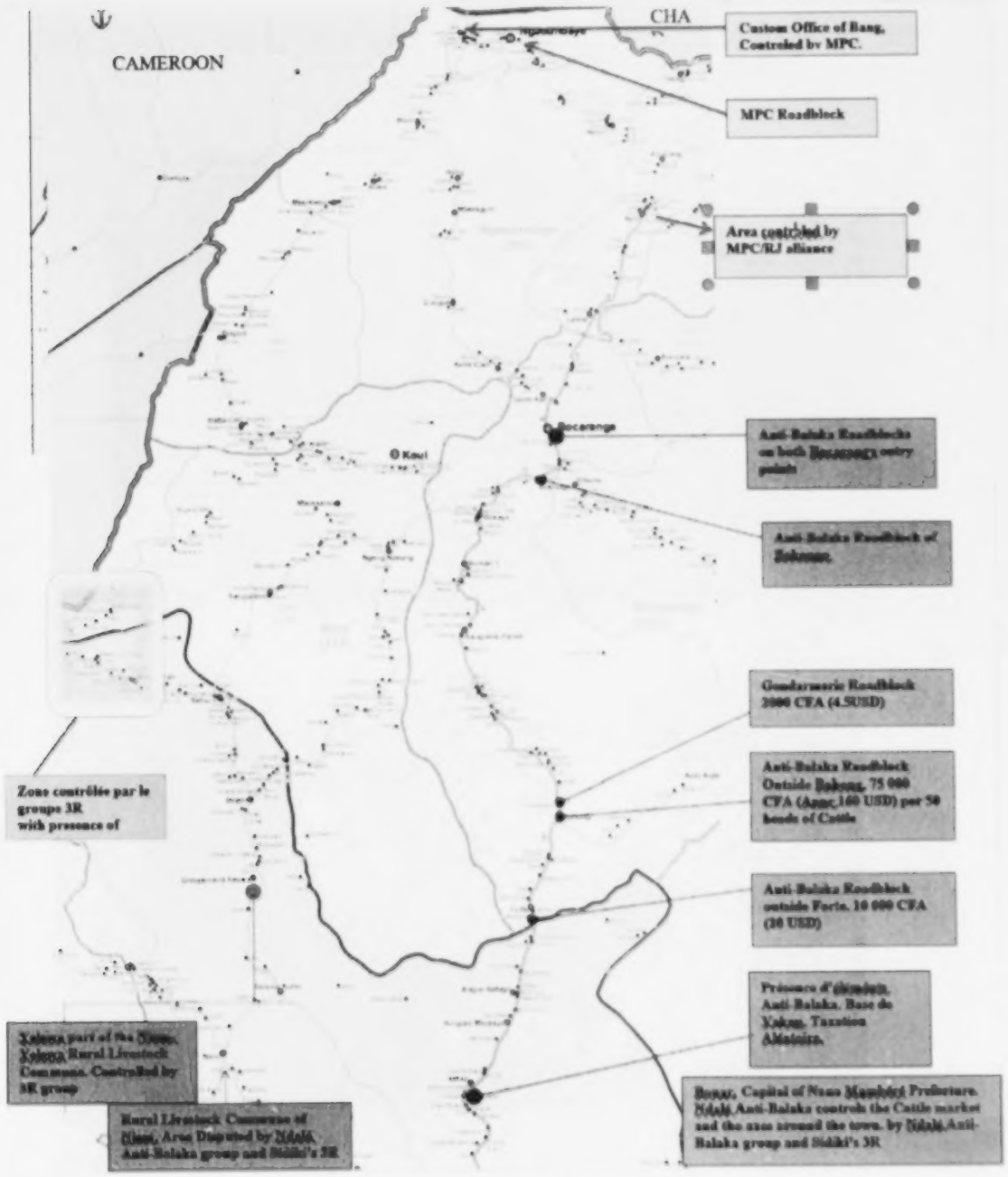
Par le présent mémorandum, il est demandé à tous les commandants de l'UPC de libérer aux Nations des filles et garçons de moins de 18 ans et de 2 échelons [illegible] l'Etat-major de l'UPC avant le 15 octobre 2017 et non de plus tard le 31 décembre 2017.

Vive l'unité et le Peuple Centrafricain !

[illegible]

GENERAL

Annex 6.1: Roadblocks in the Nana-Mambéré and Ouham Pendé prefectures.


CAMEROON
CHA
Custom Office of Bang, Controled by MPC.
MPC Roadblock
Area controled by MPC/RJ alliance
Kouï
Anti-Balaka Roadblocks on both Bocaranga entry points
Anti-Balaka Roadblock of Bohong.
Gendarmerie Roadblock 2000 CFA (4.5USD)
Anti-Balaka Roadblock Outside Bohong, 75 000 CFA (Appr.160 USD) per 50 heads of Cattle
Anti-Balaka Roadblock outside Forie. 10 000 CFA (30 USD)
Zone contrôlée par le groupe 3R with presence of
Xaleya part of the Nana-Xaleya Rural Livestock Commune. Controlled by 3R group
Rural Livestock Commune of Niem. Area Disputed by Ndalé Anti-Balaka group and Sidiki's 3R

Annex 6.2: Weapons and uniforms of 3R fighters.

Available at https://www.facebook.com/788167961250259/photos/pcb.1200220356711682/1200214370045614/?type=3. Accessed on 12 October 2017.

Annex 7.1 Incidents in 2017 targeting Muslims in Berbérati and Sosso-Nakombo.

Incidents taken from the Panel of Experts database. (January – October 2017).

10 January	During the nights of 6 and 7 January 2017, 25 Fulani were abducted at Noufou village (73 km west of Berberati) by an unidentified armed group who allegedly came from the Cameroon border.
31 January	A 20-year-old Muslim man was arbitrary detained since 9 January 2017 at Berberati's gendarmerie.
28 February	Locals informed of the discovery, in the Muslim neighborhood of Poto-Poto, Berbérati, of scattered leaflets, allegedly distributed by AB elements, containing threats against Muslim refugee returnees, telling them to go back to the Kinzou refugee camp in Cameroon. Locals also informed that alleged anti-balaka elements have thrown stones at some Muslim houses.
23 April	Muslim population in Bouli (38 km west of Carnot), Mambéré-Kadéï prefecture, reported being harassed by FDPC elements in the area.
21 May	Eight children, seven of them from the Fulani community of Beina 1 village (89 km north-west of Berbérati), where abducted by unidentified perpetrators who demanded an unknown ransom for their liberation. Reportedly, the non-Fulani child was killed during the abduction.
22 May	Muslim population in Berbérati informed that FACA elements allegedly extorted Muslim civilians and returnees at checkpoints manned by the Gendarmerie in Bania village (50 km south-east of Berbérati) and claimed that Muslim civilians were not allowed to gather in public spaces in the town. Allegedly, they were also told that they cannot build a mosque.
25 July	Muslim population in Nola indicated that FACA and Gendarmerie elements were levying FCFA 10,000 per night from Muslim families to provide security.
2 August	Muslims in Sosso Nakombo complained that they are unable to move freely or retake possession of their homes and businesses. According to them, local authorities allow anti-balaka elements to continue occupying their properties.
18 August	Muslim community representatives in Sosso Nakombo indicated that anti-balaka elements have been racketeering and robbing Muslim civilians. Although local authorities have been informed of such incidents, so far, they have taken no action.
15 September	Allegedly the former Mayor of Sosso Nakombo threatened to harm a group of Muslims for their uninformed return to the community. The ex-Mayor allegedly said that he was going to bring a group of elements to chase the Muslims from Sosso Nakambo. Muslims reiterated that are constantly harassed and threaten by AB elements in Sosso Nakombo.
4 October	The President of Sosso Nakombo's youth organization had forbidden the access to a local mosque.

Annex 7.2: Armed element on the 'Wili' mining site (Ouham prefecture).

Photograph obtained by the Panel on 10 October 2017 from a confidential source.

Annex 7.3: Private security on CAMSONA's gold-mining site, area of Sosso-Nakombo (Nana-Mambéré prefecture).

Photograph taken by the Panel on 2 August 2017.

Annex 7.4: Anti-balaka on the 'Wili' mining site.

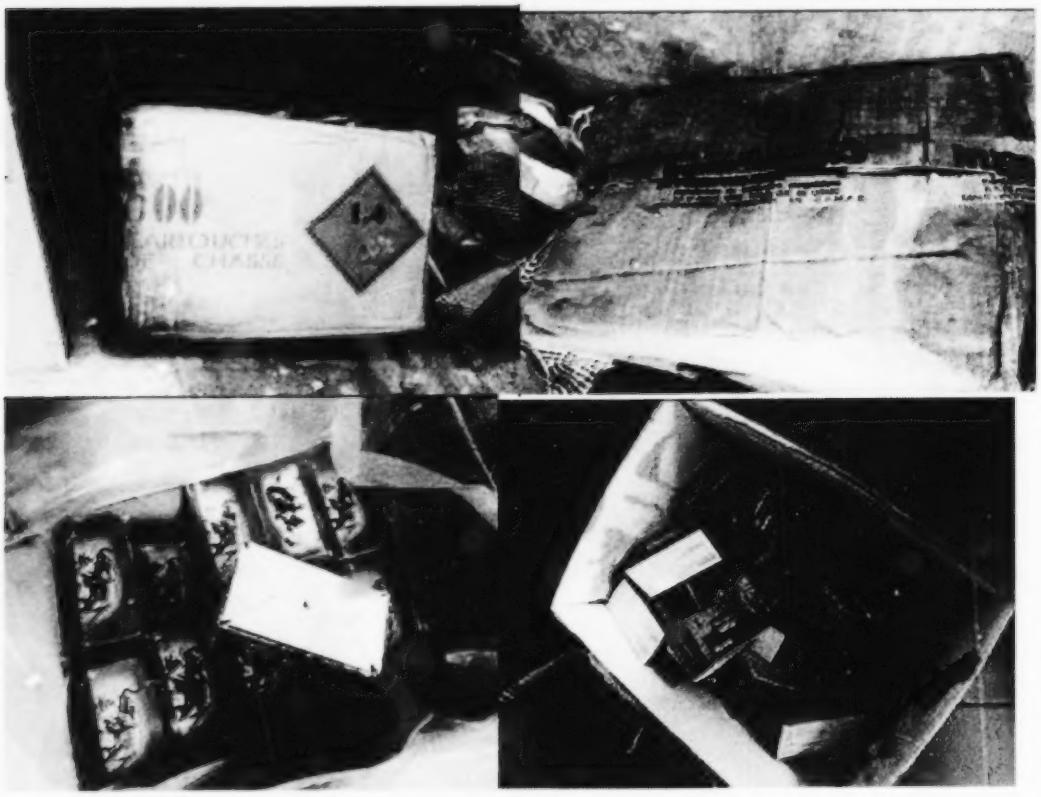
Photograph of Dieudonné Ndomaté, operations' coordinator in the anti-balaka coordination of Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona.

Available at https://www.facebook.com/dieudonne.ndomate.3/posts/410945489289853. Accessed on 7 November 2017.

The picture was published by Dieudonné Ndomaté himself on 3 May 2017. He indicated in the comments that the picture was taken at the mining site in Koro Mpoko.

Annex 7.5: MACC hunting ammunition and tramadol seized in Bangui on 17 July and 29 August 2017.

Photographs taken by the Panel in Bangui, Customs Office and Port Beach, on 21 September 2017.



Trafficking of narcotics and soft drugs

Fighters from the anti-balaka and self-defence groups consume significant amounts of narcotics and soft drugs, especially before and during the attacks. Soft drugs and tramadol, whose importation into the Central African Republic is prohibited[12], are openly sold on the markets and shops in the entire country. Boxes of tramadol are trafficked into the Central African Republic via Zongo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Garoua Boulai in Cameroon.[13] Customs office showed substantial numbers of tramadol boxes seized in Bangui and expressed concern with the increasing trafficking of these prohibited narcotics.[14]

Annex 7.6 AK-type assault rifles, chargers and ammunition carried by two anti-balaka elements, Kenguema Brice and Mingatouloum Arnaud.

Photograph taken by the Panel in Boali on 14 October 2017.